

The Flat Hat

The twice-weekly student newspaper of the College of William and Mary ♦ Est. 1911

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NICHOL BOWS OUT

Nichol resigns, campus outraged

Faculty, students demand talks with Rector Powell

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
Flat Hat News Editor

Last Sunday, the day after the College's Charter Day celebrations, Board of Visitors Rector Michael Powell '85 told College President Gene Nichol that his contract would not be renewed in June.

The BOV held its regular meeting at the College in the days prior, but emerged from its final session with no word on Nichol's future, which had remained in question since The Flat Hat first reported Nichol's October 2006 decision to remove the Wren Chapel cross from permanent display.

But it is clear that Powell and the BOV negotiated with Nichol Sunday, offering him financial incentive to leave the College at the end of his term and to do so quietly. Nichol declined the offer and resigned Tuesday, effective immediately, making his presidency the shortest since 1848, when Robert Saunders, Jr. stepped down after one year in office.

Tuesday morning, Nichol notified the College's vice presidents, and then called Powell and told him that he was stepping down. Powell asked Nichol for time to draft a statement from the Board of Visitors. Nichol declined, and said that he was about to release his statement via e-mail to the student body. The e-mail was sent shortly after 9 a.m.

Neither Nichol nor the BOV would release the paperwork outlining the severance offer, but according to Nichol's resignation e-mail Tuesday, it asked Nichol "not to characterize [the non-renewal decision] as based on ideological grounds."

In the e-mail, Nichol said that the offer contained "a stipulation of censorship" that neither he nor his wife, Glenn George, could accept.

"It would have required that I make statements I believe to be untrue and that I believe most would find non-credible," Nichol said. "I've said before that the values of the College are not for sale. Neither are ours."

In an interview with The Flat Hat, Powell said that the offer was a customary "transition package."

"I'm not really at liberty to publicly explain the specifics," Powell said. "But it was basically a package that would allow him to transition from the position and hopefully find really rewarding and great future employment, which he deserves."

In his e-mail, Nichol attributed the controversy surrounding his tenure to four presidential decisions — his removal of the Wren cross, his refusal to ban the Sex Workers' Art Show, his support of the College's Gateway Program and his commitment to the

See **NICHOL** page 5

HARK, ONE LAST TIME



ALEX HAGLUND — THE FLAT HAT

An estimated 1,500 students and faculty supported Nichol by singing the Alma Mater outside his home Tuesday night.

'Surprised' law dean now leads

Presidential search underway; Butler named interim law dean

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
Flat Hat News Editor

"Interim, acting, temporary, man of the hour."

Those were the words of Interim College President Taylor Reveley Wednesday afternoon as he tried to describe his current position after College President Gene Nichol's resignation Tuesday.



Taylor Reveley

Reveley said that he was surprised by Nichol's decision, which Nichol announced Tuesday in an e-mail to students. He also said that the College's Board of Visitors asked him to serve in the interim shortly after the announcement. He previously served as Dean of the College's Marshall-Wythe School of Law; law Professor Lynda Butler will serve in that position until he returns.

Reveley noted that he is not seeking a permanent position as college president but felt it was his duty to serve in interim. Reveley was one of top three candidates for the

See **REVELEY** page 5

For Nichol, a mixed legacy

President will be remembered for progressive ideals, controversy

By **ANGELA COTA**
Flat Hat Assoc. News Editor

College President Gene Nichol kept people talking all throughout his career and will make news for weeks to come.

Nichol was selected as the College's new president in early March 2005. The Board of Visitors picked the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's law school dean in a unanimous vote, beating out the College's School of Education Dean Virginia McLaughlin and Marshall-Wythe School of Law Dean (and now interim president at the College) Taylor Reveley, following a nine-month search for former President Timothy J. Sullivan's replacement.

Nichol was sworn in July 1, 2005. He stated his goals of helping the College better compete against private institutions, increasing funding and cultivating better student and faculty engagement. He was then installed as the College's 26th president April 7, 2006, along with Sandra Day O'Connor as the 23rd chancellor. Diversity was one of his

See **LEGACY** page 5

BOV Rector defends unanimous decision

Powell says Nichol had communication problems, made poor decisions

By **AUSTIN WRIGHT**
Flat Hat News Editor

Nobody expected this — not even top Board of Visitors members.

Rector Michael Powell '85 said he learned about College President Gene Nichol's resignation about 20 minutes before students did, giving him little time to make arrangements and respond. Powell asked Nichol to wait on releasing the resignation e-mail until the board could write a statement, according to Faculty Assembly President Alan Meese '86, but Nichol refused.

Nearly two hours later, Powell e-mailed students saying, among other things, that Nichol was not dismissed for the ideological reasons discussed in his resignation e-mail. Instead, the decision came after a five-month review of Nichol's performance that ended last week in a discussion where all 17 BOV members agreed that Nichol's contract should not be renewed.

"The relationship at the top of the school was continually deteriorating because of the unwillingness of the president to see the board as an equal partner, let alone his boss," Powell said in a telephone interview. "And the chief executive, no matter how gifted, must work effectively with the board."

In Nichol's e-mail, he said that he made four decisions that stirred controversy and led to his resignation: removing the Wren cross from permanent display, refusing to ban the Sex Workers' Art Show, introducing the Gateway program and working to increase racial diversity.

But Powell said the board's decision was based primarily on communication issues, and that Nichol continued to announce major policy changes without consulting BOV members, even after the board repeatedly discussed the problem with him. According to Powell, Nichol announced the \$4 million Gateway program without securing funding and without alerting the BOV, forcing the board to divert money away from other student aid initiatives to pay for the unfunded program.

He said the board agrees with the mission of Gateway and is currently trying to build an endowment for it, but he believes the announcement could have been

POWELL'S REASONS FOR FIRING NICHOL

■ Failed to communicate major policy changes to BOV

■ Announced initiatives without securing proper funding

■ Did poor job developing relationships with top College donors

■ Failed to improve after BOV identified problems

See **RECTOR** page 4

College protesters call for BOV transparency

Sit-ins, teach-ins and a march across campus mark days after announcement

By **SAM SUTTON**
Flat Hat Staff Writer

Students and faculty, decked out in pro-Nichol shirts and red armbands, packed into the University Center Wednesday to protest the Board of Visitors' decision not to renew the contract of College President Gene Nichol.

"It's been hundreds of people, coming and going," Devan Barber '08 said. Barber has been cited as one of the organizers of the event, which included an all-day sit-in and town meeting at 2 p.m. "It's amazing that students have mobilized so quickly."

According to Dave Johnson '09, the organization of the protest occurred spontaneously, involving two or three groups and coalescing over the 24 hours between Nichol's announcement and the protest's commencement.

The impromptu protest brought a wide variety of students to the UC. Many sat in circles, listening to old protest songs or doing schoolwork. Several students made rounds throughout the building, carrying with them a petition with a list of demands for the BOV.

"It really started organically," Phil Zapfel '09 said as he stood

outside, asking those going into the building to sign the petition, "But we feel like we've got a majority of student support." According to Zapfel, the petition already had approximately 800 signatures as of 1:45 that afternoon.

The Commonwealth Auditorium crowded with students, alumni and faculty at 2 p.m., when de facto leaders of the protest listed their demands. These included full disclosure of the reasoning behind the decision not to renew Nichol's contract: a review of the process by which the decision was made, a question and answer period for Rector Michael Powell '85 and the BOV regarding student and faculty concerns; a guarantee that



SPENCER ATKINSON — THE FLAT HAT

Students stage a sit-in Wednesday in the University Center. Many professors canceled classes so they and their students could attend.

See **PROTEST** page 3

NEWSINSIGHT

The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

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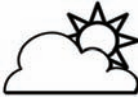
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The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.


Weather

Friday




High 63°
Low 36°

Saturday



High 45°
Low 33°

Sunday



High 57°
Low 49°

Source: www.weather.com

Quotes of the Week

“

This is what universities do. This is why we’re here. This is what it’s all about.

”

— Provost Geoffrey Feiss speaking with students protesting in the Sunken Garden

See PROTESTS page 1

News in Brief

Student’s art featured on Charter Day booklet cover

Kristin Smith’s ’08 watercolor rendering of the Lord Botetourt statue in Wren Yard was featured on the cover of this year’s Charter Day booklet. Smith submitted the painting to a contest announced in the art and history departments in November, and was unanimously chosen as the winner.

In addition to being featured on the cover of the booklet, Smith’s piece was purchased by the President’s Collection.

The contest was inspired by the use of an alumna’s painting for the 2007 booklet. Art and art history Professor Nicole McCormick implemented the contest this year, and hopes to make it an annual tradition.

Interim Dean of Law School announced

Effective Feb. 12, Chancellor Professor of Law Lynda L. Butler will act as interim dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law. Butler was named to the position as a result of the Board of Visitors’ nomination of Law School Dean Taylor Reveley as interim president of the College.

Butler received her bachelor’s degree from the College and her J.D. from the University of Virginia. Before she began teaching, she practiced law at the firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in Washington, D.C.

Her research and teaching focus on eminent domain, environmental law, land use and property law.

She has been a member of the law school faculty since 1979, and has served as vice dean of the law school since 2000.

— by Sarah Hays

By the Numbers

86 percent

The proportion of students the College who are undergraduates.

9,000 to 10,000

The number of books that Thomas Jefferson estimated he had in his personal library. He later sold 6,487 book to Congress for \$23,950 (the equivalent of \$233,755 in today’s dollars).

160

The number of feral cats that were found during demolition of buildings to make room for the construction of the 2012 Olympics site in London, England. A local animal charity has agreed to take the cats.

6

The number of states with legislatures that convene only every other year, except for emergencies. Texas is one such state.

— by Maxim Lott



COURTESY PHOTO — WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

The shooting at Northern Illinois University was preceded by a threat originally reported in December 2007.

BEYOND THE BURG
Students shot at Northern Illinois University

21 people shot, 5 killed in lecture hall shooting

By SARAH HAYS
Flat Hat Assoc. Insight Editor

A gunman opened fire on a classroom Thursday at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, shooting 21 people, at least 5 of whom were killed, and then proceeded to shoot himself.

Police know the identity of the shooter, but were not publicly releasing the name at press time. Police Chief Donald Grady said that the shooter was not a current student but a former graduate student in sociology at NIU.

Grady commented that there is no known motive at present.

Theresa Comitas, a spokeswoman from Kishwaukee Community Hospital, where the victims were initially taken, said that many victims were shot in the head. At least three of the victims are in critical condition, eight are in stable condition and six are in good condition. Two of

the wounded in critical condition were flown to Saint Anthony’s Hospital in Rockford.

The university, located outside of Chicago, was shut down Dec. 10 after graffiti was found scrawled on the restroom wall of a residence hall. The graffiti referenced the Virginia Tech shootings, saying “What time? The VA tech shooters messed up with having only one shooter.”

It is not clear at this time whether or not the graffiti and the shootings are directly related.

The shooting occurred around 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time in Cole Hall, where a geology class of 150 to 200 students was located. Reports from students inside the classroom indicate that the shooter was a thin white male wearing a black knit hat and a black trench coat.

According to eyewitnesses, the shooter emerged from behind a screen on a stage at the front of

the room and began firing at the students. Police report that the shooter used a shotgun, a Glock pistol and a small-caliber handgun in the attack.

The university used a warning system installed after the shootings at Virginia Tech to issue an alert to students at approximately 4:20 p.m. Students were told to avoid the King Common area of the campus and were informed that the campus had been locked down and classes canceled through Friday.

Student T.J. Johnson explains how many students fled to a local off-campus eatery to take refuge and stay informed.

“Everyone has gathered here at Molly’s to keep a close watch on what happens outside of our doors through various news stations and radio,” he says. “We can only hope for the best for those who have been injured and their families.”

STREET BEAT
What are your opinions about Nichol’s resignation?



I think it was abrupt. I don’t think the College is ready to lose Nichol.

Matt Miller ’11



It’s really disturbing that the BOV didn’t consult the students and faculty.

Rachel Fouargue ’09



I think it helped people to show that this was something we needed to take notice of.

Chris Curl ’11

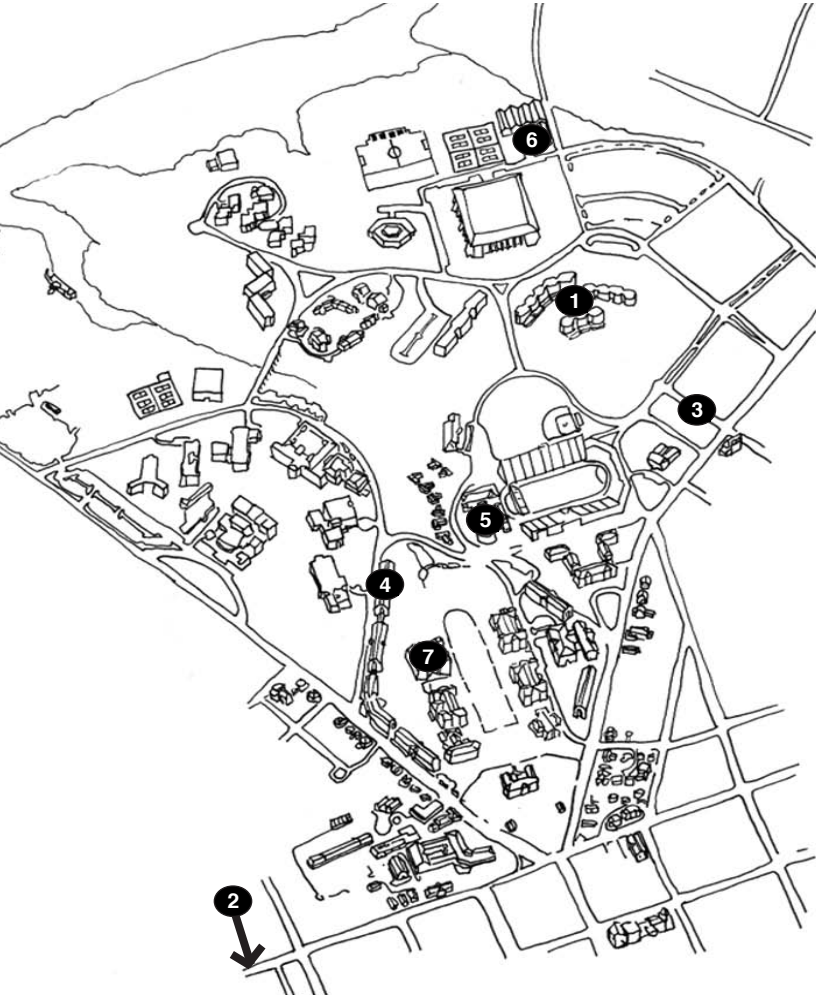


I think it was a rash decision. He probably should have fulfilled his obligation to the College.

David Horwitz ’10

— photos by Spencer Atkinson and interviews by Isshin Teshima

CAMPUS POLICE BEAT
Feb. 5 to Feb. 11



- Tuesday, Feb. 5** — A student reported the theft of \$20 in cash from her purse while at a party in Unit C. **1**
- A student reported the theft of five of their textbooks from the Law School library. The estimated value of the textbooks is \$500. **2**
- Wednesday, Feb. 6** — A student reported that their vehicle was vandalized while parked on Harrison Avenue. A sideview mirror and windshield wiper were missing from the vehicle, and total damage is estimated at \$200. **3**
- Thursday, Feb. 7** — A student reported unauthorized use of Flex Points on their account.
- Sunday, Feb. 10** — A caller from Landrum Hall reported that a male was attempting to get into the dorm by beating on the door. Officers were dispatched, and a student was arrested for being drunk in public and underage possession of alcohol. **4**
- A student called to report the theft of a bike from the University Center. Its estimated value is \$100. **5**
- A student reported that their cell phone, worth \$60, was stolen Friday night from the Rec Center. **6**
- Monday, Feb. 11** — A window in the north wing of the Law School was reported broken. Damage is estimated at \$200. **2**
- A staff member from McGlothlin-Street Hall reported graffiti in one of the restrooms. Estimated damage to the restroom is \$50. **7**
- A pizza delivery driver reported the theft of a car-top pizza sign worth \$45 from their vehicle while parked at the Units. **1**

— Compiled by Sarah Hays

This week in
Flat Hat history
1932

The Board of Visitors voted to erect a pair of gates in memoriam of Colonel Benjamin Ewell at the entrance of the library. The Board also voted to restore tablets that had originally hung from the Wren Chapel, but had been missing since the chapel’s most recent restoration.

1961

A four-piece silver tea set that bears the College insignia dating from 1892 was given to then-President Davis Paschall as a gift from an alumnus. The set was given by Dwight L. Taylor ’53 on the condition that it remain on display in the president’s residence. He found the set in a Boston antique shop.

1981

A group of underclassmen from Dupont Hall decided to start its own fraternity group on campus. The new fraternity, a chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, was officially colonized by the College with 21 members. At the time, TeKE was the largest fraternity in the county with members including Ronald Reagan and Merv Griffin. There is no longer a TeKE chapter at the College.

1996

The blizzard of ’96, a large ice storm followed by a snowstorm, dropped more than a foot of ice throughout Virginia, effectively closing the roadways and canceling classes for students at the College.

— compiled by Isshin Teshima

Students and faculty protest across campus

PROTESTS *from page 1*

the BOV take into account student voices in the decision-making process and a BOV commitment to the continuing diversity of the college.

Several faculty members also addressed the crowd, including Provost Geoff Feiss, “To an old lefty, this feels good,” he said.

Feiss went on to add that Nichol’s departure is tantamount to “a death in the family,” and that no matter who the BOV appoints to replace the former president, “He’s not Gene Nichol.”

Several faculty members expressed their concerns at the meeting, saying that the voices of faculty members and students at the College had not been heard throughout the decision-making process. Many urged for solidarity amongst students, faculty and staff.

“There’s some power in strength in numbers,” Lynn Pelco, a professor at the School of Education, said. “Reach out to your faculty.” Another professor raised his right fist in the air, and yelled, “we are a family,” prompting enthusiastic applause from the audience. One professor brought up concerns regarding the status of the unofficial strike taking place Wednesday and Thursday, saying that the commonwealth has informed the College that if professors were to collude and go on strike, their positions may be terminated.

“We’ve been told not to use the ‘S’ word,” the faculty member said, “How about another ‘S’ word? Solidarity.” She then lifted a sign over her head, bearing the word “STRIKE” in all capital letters.

Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen ’09 considered the day a success for the protestors.

“It went fantastic. Students are asking how they can get involved beyond holding candles at a rally,” he said.

“Today makes me energized in some ways,” sociology Professor Jennifer Bickham-Mendez said. “I’m glad to see students leading this. This is what education is all about.”

Nine BOV members donate to Dems

Majority of board appointed by Gov. Kaine and former Gov. Warner

By MAXIM LOTT
Flat Hat Deputy News Editor

Should the Board of Visitors be renewed? That is the question some students are asking on the heels of College President Gene Nichol’s resignation Tuesday.

“I want a new BOV, not a new President,” reads the title of a Facebook group with 340 members as of press time.

Others, including alumnus Lance Kyle ’89, criticize what they see as a political selection process for BOV members.

“BOV members are primarily selected for political reasons,” Kyle said in an e-mail.

Government Professor John McGlennon agrees that politics are at work.

“Some Board appointees are recommended by the College and alumni association, some are drawn from the Governor’s supporters,” he said.

While Kyle said that the political process biases the BOV in favor of Nichol, protesting students are concerned that the members are biased against Nichol. However, a compilation of campaign contribution data by The Flat Hat shows that nine of 17 BOV members are primarily Democratic donors, whereas five donate more to Republican candidates.

Of the BOV members originally appointed by Gov. Tim Kaine, a Democrat, two had donated to his campaign while one had donated to

his opponent, Jerry Kilgore. Of those appointed by former Gov. Mark Warner also a Democrat, three had donated to his campaign while one donated to his opponent. One of his appointees was Suzann W. Matthews ’71, who donated more than anyone else on the BOV — \$161,000 to Kaine and \$25,000 to Warner.

Former Gov. Jim Gilmore, a Republican, also had generous appointees. Outgoing BOV member Joseph Plumeri has donated at least \$450,000 to Republican candidates nationwide since 1997. All BOV members have been either appointed or reappointed by either Democrats Kaine or Warner. Three were originally appointed by Gilmore.

BOV members Thomas Capps and Vice Rector Henry Wolf ’64, J.D. ’66 donated to both the Kaine and Kilgore campaigns. Capps did not respond to interview requests, while Wolf said the two seemingly conflicting donations were for personal reasons.

McGlennon brought up high profile cases of political interference in BOV appointments.

“You may remember the case a couple of years ago, when the governor (a Democrat) appointed a just-retired Republican member of the House of Delegates. The delegate had supported Gov. Warner’s tax reform package, which angered other Republican delegates. They blocked his confirmation when it came to the General Assembly. A few years earlier,

after it was discovered that Republican Governor Gilmore was interviewing prospective BOV appointees and requiring that they commit to taking voting directions from him, some Republican senators blocked two of Gilmore’s final appointees,” he said.

Secretary to the BOV Michael J. Fox said that nominations were based on merit.

“The governor of Virginia has the responsibility to appoint members to the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary. Given the significant fiscal and policy responsibilities of public college governing boards, every governor takes these appointments very seriously and does so by finding individuals that are well qualified and will serve the College well,” he said.

Kyle and others take issue with the fact that five out the 17 BOV members did not graduate from the College. Furthermore, some BOV members have many commitments, including Rector Michael Powell ’85 and John Gerdelman, who both serve on more than 10 corporate and college boards.

McGlennon said that there might be reasons to have non-alums on the board.

“It is optimal if BOV members are chosen for their dedication to the College (whether they are alums or not) and their ability to help the College gain resources,” he said.

Student concern is concentrated on the BOV being out of touch and

unaccountable to the student body.

“They are not representing my views as a student,” Sarah Milam ’09, the creator of the biggest anti-BOV Facebook group, wrote.

Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen ’09, who serves as the student representative to the BOV, said that board members frequently asked what he thought about issues.

Pilchen said that the SA has worked to help students and BOV members meet, citing an SA-sponsored lunch in which BOV members sat with randomly selected students.

“One of the BOV members told me, ‘Thanks so much for doing this. We never get to interact with average students,’” Pilchen said.

Pilchen called for structural reforms to the BOV and pointed out that in Pennsylvania, public institutions are required to have a voting student member on their boards.

“I think the BOV should have a voting student member, I think it should have a voting faculty member, I think it should have a voting alumni member and a voting staff member. ... Not so many people that they could make decisions as a block, but enough so it would be recorded that ‘the staff position was this, the faculty position was that.”

That change would have to be decided on a state level, however.

Pilchen also said he plans to get future BOV meetings televised on WMTV to increase student awareness and board accountability.

OFFICERS



Rector
Name: Michael K. Powell
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: None found
Gubernatorial Donations: None found
Biography: Previously Chief of Staff of the Dept. of Justice Anti-Trust Division. Joined FCC in 1997, was appointed chair in 2001, retired in 2005.
Education: B.A. ’85; J.D. ’93, Georgetown
Date of Appointment: 2002
Appointing Governor: Warner



Vice-Rector
Name: Henry C. Wolf
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$13,663, Republicans: \$0
Gubernatorial Donations: Kaine (D): \$5,000, Kilgore (R): \$2,500, Beyer (D): \$2,500
Biography: Currently Chairman and CFO of Norfolk Souther Corp.
Education: ’64 (Economics), J.D. ’66; MBA ’70, LSU; LL.M ’73, Georgetown
Date of Appointment: 2003
Appointing Governor: Warner



Secretary
Name: Suzann W. Matthews
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$585,532, Republicans: \$106,000, Independents: \$11,000
Gubernatorial Donations: Kaine (D): \$146,850, Warner (D): \$25,000, Beyer (D): \$1,200
Biography: Currently serves on William and Mary National Campaign Steering Committee. A founding member of the Muscarelle Museum of Art Board of Directors.
Education: ’71 (B.A. English)
Date of Appointment: 2002
Appointing Governor: Warner

MEMBERS



Name: Charles A. Banks
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$3,450, Republicans: \$1,300, Independents: \$8,385
Gubernatorial Donations: Kilgore (R): \$2,200, Gilmore (R): \$2,200, Hager (R): \$750, Allen (R): \$500
Biography: Became Group Chief Executive of the Wolsley Board in 2001. He retired in 2006. Named an honorary William and Mary alumnus in 2005.
Education: B.A. International Relations (Brown University)
Date of Appointment: 2006
Appointing Governor: Kaine



Name: Sarah I. Gore
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrat: \$2,208; Republicans: \$0
Gubernatorial Donations: None
Biography: Gore is the executive of Human Resource Group at W.L. Gore & Associates; created the I Have A Dream Foundation of Delaware along with serving as a trustee for Winterthur.
Education: B.A. ’56 (English); M.S. ’75 (Guidance and Counseling), Delaware
Date of Appointment: 2003
Governor Appointed: Warner



Name: Anita Poston
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$3,075, Republicans: \$120
Gubernatorial Donations: Warner (D): \$1,350, Beyer (D): \$5,500
Biography: Works as a partner with the law firm of Vandever Black, LLP, in Norfolk. Received the Citizen Lawyer Award from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law in 2001.
Education: B.S. ’71, University of Maryland; J.D. ’74
Date of Appointment: 2003
Appointing Governor: Warner



Name: Robert A. Blair
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$2,000; Republicans: \$0
Gubernatorial Donations: Warner (D): \$1,000, Beyer (D): \$1,000
Biography: Blair is currently president of Blair Law, P.C., located in Washington, D.C.
Education: B.A. ’68 (Mathematics); J.D. ’73, U.Va.
Year appointed: 2004
Governor Appointed: Warner



Name: R. Phillip Herget III
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$7,300; Republicans: \$0
Gubernatorial Donations: Kaine (D): \$15,000, Warner (D): \$65,000
Biography: Herget is currently the Managing General partner for Columbia Capital.
Education: B.A. ’85, U.Va; M.B.A., UNC—Chapel Hill
Date of Appointment: 2004
Governor Appointed: Warner



Name: John Charles Thomas
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$2,500, Republicans: \$0
Gubernatorial Donations: Warner (D): \$500, Kaine (D): \$1,000, Beyer (D): \$500
Biography: Served on Virginia Supreme Court from 1983-90. Currently is a partner at Hunton & Williams, LLP, in Richmond.
Education: B.A. ’72, J.D. ’75, U. Va.
Date of Appointment: 2006
Appointing Governor: Kaine



Name: Janet M. Brashear
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: No records found.
Gubernatorial Donations: No records found.
Biography: Executive vice-president of AMERIGROUP Corporation based in Virginia Beach. Trustee of the Mason School of Business.
Education: B.A. ’82 (Government, Philosophy and French); M.B.A., Harvard
Date of Appointment: 2004
Governor Appointed: Warner



Name: Kathy Hornsby
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$1,550, Republicans: \$700, Independents: \$250
Gubernatorial Donations: Kaine (D): \$2,300, Warner (D): \$1,250
Biography: Currently member of Acquisitions Committee at Muscarelle Museum of Art.
Education: B.Ed. ’79
Date of Appointment: 2008
Appointing Governor: Kaine



Name: Jeffrey B. Trammell
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$57,150, Republicans: \$0
Gubernatorial Donations: Kaine: \$2,500, Warner: \$2,300
Biography: Worked on Gore’s 2000 presidential campaign and is a board member of the Holocaust Museum. Owns a consulting firm.
Education: ’73 (B.A. History); J.D. ’77, Florida State University
Date of Appointment: 2005
Appointing Governor: Warner



Name: Thomas E. Capps
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$4,181; Republicans: \$17,543; Independents: \$3,500
Gubernatorial Donations: Kaine (D): \$2,500 Kilgore (R): \$12,000, Gilmore (R): \$1,831
Biography: Retired from his position as President and CEO of Dominion Virginia Power in December 2005.
Education: B.A. ’58 (English Literature), J.D. ’65, UNC
Date of Appointment: 2002
Governor Appointed: Warner



Name: Jeffrey L. McWaters
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$0, Republicans: \$2,500
Gubernatorial Donations: Kilgore (R): \$60,000; Earley (R): \$1,670
Biography: Founder, Chairman and CEO of Amerigroup Corp.
Education: B.S. ’78, University of Kentucky
Date of Appointment: 2000
Appointing Governor: Gilmore



Name: Barbara B. Ukrop
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$57,150, Republicans: \$1,000, Independents: \$8,385
Gubernatorial Donations: Warner (D): \$17,450, Kaine (D): \$6,000, Beyer (D): \$1,250
Biography: Active in College and alumni associations and political and community and political organizations.
Education: B.A. ’61 (English)
Date of Appointment: 2002
Appointing Governor: Warner



Name: John W. Gerdelman
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$2,000; Republicans: \$6,420
Gubernatorial Donations: Kilgore (R): \$8,000; Earley (R): \$14,500
Biography: Executive chairman and founder of Intelliden, a leading provider of corporate IT support solutions.
Education: B.S. ’75 (Chemistry)
Date of Appointment: 2003
Governor Appointed: Warner



Name: Joseph J. Plumeri II
Non-gubernatorial Political Donations: Democrats: \$0, Republicans: \$460,600
Gubernatorial Donations: Kilgore (R): \$5,000
Biography: Career mainly with Citigroup; in 2000, was appointed as CEO of Willis Group Holdings, a global insurance broker.
Education: B.A. ’66; J.D., New York University
Date of Appointment: 2000
Appointing Governor: Gilmore

NOTE:

This year’s faculty representatives are English Professor Colleen Kennedy for the College and Roger E. Franklin, Jr., for Richard Bland College. This year’s student representatives are Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen ’09 for the College and Yvonne M. Rosa for Richard Bland College.

Biographical information courtesy of the Board of Visitors website. Information on political donations courtesy of opensecrets.org and vpap.org.

Photos are courtesy of the Board of Visitors website.

Graphic by Alex Guillén and Carl Siegmund.

GA approves Nichol's exit

*General Assembly members
say Nichol never transitioned
from activist to president*

By ISSHIN TESHIMA
Flat Hat Insight Editor

Members of the General Assembly's House of Delegates responded to Nichol's resignation earlier this week.

"I think for the most part that [the overall reaction among delegates] is relief," Del. Tim Hugo '86 (R-Fairfax) said.

"It's been an unending string of political controversies throughout his tenure, and I don't think that has been good for the school."

Nichol criticized the House Privileges and Elections committee in his resignation e-mail Tuesday for summoning Board of Visitors members to Richmond for questioning. Nichol said they were effectively threatening the board members into deciding not to renew his contract.

Privileges and Elections Committee Chairman Del. Mark Cole (R-Fauquier) disagreed with Nichol's comments and said he called the meeting because many constituents and alumni of the College were concerned about recent controversial activities.

"I understand that there were a lot of alumni who had issues with him and a lot of professors who had problems with him," he said.

He said they talked to the BOV members about the controversies surrounding the College such as the initial removal of the Wren cross and the hosting of the Sex Workers' Art Show.

Meanwhile, several other delegates believed that Nichol was not properly suited for the job of being the president of a public institution of higher education.

"I don't think he acted appropriately," Del. Frank Hargrove (R-Hanover) said. "He wasn't doing anything but hurting the institution."

Many delegates have mixed feelings about recent events on

campus.

Hargrove especially believes that teachers and students should not interfere with the BOV's decision.

"I don't think the faculty should be involved in this. The faculty is there to teach, not there to set policy," he said. "A chemistry teacher is there to teach chemistry, not policy."

Hugo agreed with BOV Rector Michael Powell's statement that the College should move forward.

"What we need to do now is put everything behind us and continue," Hugo said.

"I think [Nichol] was a liberal activist, and I don't think a liberal activist should be running a school, but I don't think a conservative activist should either," Hugo added.

Yet, Cole believes that the policies of the school should be formed by the BOV and not the General Assembly itself.

The delegates also recommended ways to improve communication on campus and for students to voice their opinions to the General Assembly.

"I think students need to become involved with their representatives — they need to be in touch about different issues," Cole said.

"Voice your opinion through the student government, and contact various General Assembly members too."

Cole believes that the College is headed in the right direction.

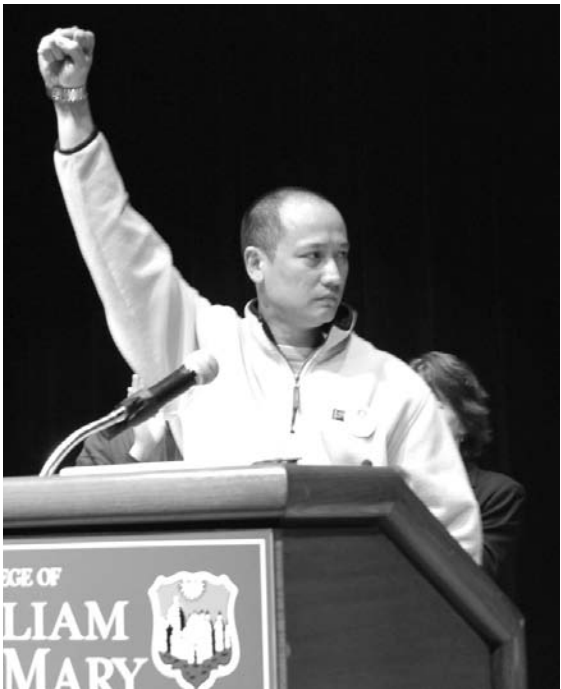
"I just hope from now on out that William and Mary will make the news for positive things and not controversial issues. I hope it will get back in the news for outstanding academics," he said.

Hugo agreed.

"Nichol is a very nice man, and I sincerely wish him well, but he never made the successful transition from political activist to college president," he said.



ALEX GUILLÉN AND SPENCER ATKINSON — THE FLAT HAT
Students and faculty protested with sit-ins and teach-ins to show support for Gene Nichol and opposition to the Board of Visitors.



Faculty meets to discuss president

By KARA STARR
Flat Hat Assoc. News Editor

Approximately 300 members of the faculty of arts and sciences convened today in a special meeting to discuss the non-renewal and resignation of College President Gene Nichol, and to put forth recommendations on an action plan.

Three motions were put on the floor. The sole passing motion was a nearly unanimous vote to request that Rector Michael Powell come to the College to answer questions about the BOV's decision process and reasoning.

The meeting, led by biology professor Margaret Saha, opened with the reading of a letter written by the Faculty Affairs Committee to the BOV prior to Nichol's non-renewal, stating that the FAC supported the renewal of his contract.

Saha listed frequently asked questions and other requests from faculty that she has received since Nichol's resignation Tuesday. The first issue was the faculty's desire for more information regarding the BOV's decision, both to give proof that the decision was not ideological and to explain why the faculty was not consulted throughout the process.

The faculty also questioned the process itself and called for more openness in the decision-making.

Saha then indicated that many faculty are unsure about the future direction of the college and question what will happen to diversity initiatives championed by Nichol, how the College will move on, and a concern that this is "just the beginning" of a lack of faculty voice in BOV decisions.

The floor was then open for questions and airing of concerns by troubled faculty.

The first speaker was chemistry professor Gary Defotis, who spoke in support of Powell's e-mail explanation of the BOV's decision.

"I accept Rector Powell's statement; it

strikes me as reasonable. I saw in it an endorsement of Gateway," Defotis said.

Defotis held a minority opinion. Most of those present at the meeting felt that Powell's e-mail lacked specificity and ignored major issues.

Questions arose during this time, breaching topics such as standards that future presidents will have to obey, transparency, open lines of communication with the BOV and the scope of the Virginia state government's involvement with College issues.

One point of contention was the fact that while the BOV hired an external consulting group to conduct interviews and participate in the decision-making process, only three professors of those present said they were questioned by the commission. The BOV utilized what many professors referred to as a "corporate model," employing benchmarks in a 360-degree review system to assess Nichol's performance as president.

Several spoke to highlight the differences between an academic institution like the College and a corporation.

Many also expressed discontent with the way Powell characterized the BOV's non-renewal in his e-mail to the College community and in personal conversations.

"This is corporate speak for 'we didn't like the guy,'" John Nezelek, professor of psychology, said. "This is not a company, not a political body."

Some also spoke in defense of the BOV's alleged political motivations, stating that the BOV is not the right-wing group that many have perceived, and that most were appointed to their positions by Democrats in the Virginia state government.

"They are very thoughtful people who want the best for William and Mary. I am angered by the people who believe this is ideological," said Robert Archibald, an economics professor who previously served as the FAC representative to the BOV.

While at several points during the meeting various professors voiced the desire to protest the decision, including a suggestion by anthropology professor Barbara Kane to not "recognize the legitimacy of the interim president," the majority of speakers agreed that the best path was to begin moving on, while still taking action.

"Damage to campus morale is unmistakable ... [but] there are two things we could do that would be catastrophic. The first is abandoning the field, pulling back our contributions to the College, and the second is deciding that the interim [president] is illegitimate," history Professor Melvin Ely said.

Many professors echoed the complaint that Nichol did not consult others on his actions. Speakers cited the Wren cross decision, the bias reporting system and the Gateway program as actions Nichol made unilaterally.

Three motions were then put forth. The first motion, receiving a nearly unanimous vote, requested Powell's presence on campus to engage in open dialogue with students, faculty and staff to discuss the process and expound on the BOV's decision.

The next motion proposed a vote of no confidence toward the BOV. This motion was met with criticism from those who thought the vote precluded the results of Powell's response to the visit request, and several spoke out saying that more information must be obtained before a final statement is issued. This motion was postponed until after Powell's visit to the College, and will be taken up separately if Powell chooses to decline the invitation.

Saha stated that these issues would be taken up as needed at their next scheduled meeting or in another special session.

The final motion suggested a review of the process of administrative appointments and renewals and an evaluation of the extent to which the views of faculty and students are weighed in the BOV decision process. This motion was referred to the FAC.

Rector Powell discusses decision not to renew Nichol

RECTOR *from page 1*

handled more responsibly.

Powell also said Nichol removed the Wren cross without consulting the board and that Nichol would not agree to board members' recommendations that he appoint a religion committee until six months into the controversy. By that time, Powell said, "enormous political capital had been expended."

"It collapsed into a situation where things were either his way or no way," Powell said. "We tried many, many ways to work on it,

but it became clear that we were asking him to be something he wasn't."

He added that Nichol did not properly consult the BOV about several other programs that required funding, and Nichol responded to the Sex Workers' Art Show in a way that the board found unnecessarily controversial.

The board's 360-degree review of Nichol, which included an appraisal by an independent consulting firm, concluded that he was doing a poor job developing relationships with the school's top do-

nors, Powell said. He added that the board had been considering a billion-dollar fundraising campaign as a follow-up to the \$500 million Campaign for William and Mary but decided that insufficient progress had been made toward such a large project. "It became crystal clear that, unanimously, the board didn't have confidence that he would succeed," Powell said. "We made the gut-wrenching decision to make a change."

The BOV, though, set no timetable for releasing the decision. After reaching a consensus at last week's meeting, the board

informed Nichol Sunday that his contract would not be renewed — after dining with the president Friday night and after the Charter Day celebration Saturday.

Powell said he hoped Nichol would serve out his term and that they could work in the remaining months to find a way for Nichol to leave gracefully. That's why, Powell said, the board offered him a generous transitional package stipulating that he make no statements about his departure without the board's approval. Nichol rejected the offer, saying his values are not for sale.

"It was not the board's intention to censor him or unfairly re-

strict him," Powell said. "We were hopeful that we would work together toward a mutual, agreeable public explanation and in a manner that was harming the school as little as possible and harming him personally as little as possible."

Now, in the wake of Nichol's e-mail, the board is left with the task of answering student calls for transparency. Hundreds of student protestors are saying that their voices were not heard and that the board acted in secrecy to dismiss a president who was admired by students and faculty.

BOV member Charles Thomas, the first black Virginia Supreme Court justice, said he was taking phone calls from students in the days after the resignation and that he was considering a trip to Williamsburg in the near future.

"We're not budging on diversity, and we're not budging on Gateway," he said, adding that Nichol was not dismissed for his ideological stances.

Powell said that he was aware that many students are upset with the BOV, and he wanted students to understand that the board did

listen to them.

"Being heard is not the same thing as prevailing, and that's important to distinguish," he said. "I'm not naive about where we sit with the community right now, and that's heartbreaking to me."

English professor Colleen Kennedy, who is the faculty representative to the BOV, said she originally supported Nichol but now believes that the board's decision was in the best interest of the College.

Nichol's resignation e-mail, she said, was not.

"I don't see how that letter can be construed as doing any good for the College at all," she said. "That letter is not in anybody's best interest, except maybe his."

"He made the board the villains, and they're not — they're the people caught in the middle of it," she added.

The Flat Hat tried to contact all BOV members, but only Powell and Thomas returned calls or were willing to comment. Nichol would not return requests for comment, and last night his wife said he had left for a beach in North Carolina.



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A mixed, controversial legacy

LEGACY *from page 1*

goals from the beginning. “The College needs to more vigorously open its doors to become more racially and geographically diverse,” Nichol told the Flat Hat last April.

Nichol introduced a program early in his career that will carry on beyond his presidency. The Gateway program provides tuition, room and board for students whose families make less than \$40,000 a year. Student recipients are chosen based on Free Application for Federal Student Aid forms. The first Gateway freshmen arrived in fall of 2006. Nichol mentioned Gateway in his e-mail to students following his resignation.

Soon after his installation, Nichol received news that the National Collegiate Athletic Association had ruled the two feathers on the College’s logo hostile to Native Americans; however, the College’s sports program was allowed to keep the name “Tribe.” After lengthy appeals, Nichol announced Oct. 6, 2006 that the administration would adhere to the NCAA’s decision. He reasoned that suing the NCAA would cost a large amount of money that would be better spent on financial aid.

Feb. 20, 2007 Nichol charged Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler with the task of forming a committee to create a new logo. The committee consisted of 14 total alumni, students, faculty and staff at the College. Members accepted student input until April 29, then worked on the decision until December 2007, when the committee revealed the new logo it had selected to the BOV. The design faced strong opposition among students, who formed an online petition to “express profound disappointment” in the new design.

The biggest event in Nichol’s career came in October 2006, with what came to be known as “the Wren cross controversy.” He removed an 18-inch gold cross from the Wren Chapel to make the chapel more welcoming to people of all faiths. It was to be relocated to the sacristy and made available on request. The story, which started as a small article in The Flat Hat, soon received national attention.

Nichol made the decision to relocate the cross after receiving some requests from members of the community to reconsider the cross’s placement in the chapel. Word about the seemingly small change started spreading when Assistant Director of Historic Campus Melissa Enginmann sent an e-mail to employees of the Wren building informing them of the decision on the day of the cross’s removal. As the news spread, Nichol then sent an e-mail Oct. 27, after The Flat Hat printed the story, verifying and explaining the move. Major news sources soon picked up on the story. A few members of the SA proposed bills against the decision and the Campus Crusade for Christ expressed displeasure.

Its removal also became an issue with

alumni. Oct. 31, Vince Haley ’88 started savethewrencross.org, a website which included a link to petition Nichol’s decision. It had 1,300 signatures when The Flat Hat printed a report on it Nov. 17, 2006.

Margee Pierce ’84 withheld a donation, and four members of the Fourth Centry Club, a group of alumni who contribute \$1,000 or more annually, signed Haley’s online petition. However, Vice President for Development Sean Pieri told The Flat Hat Feb. 13 that the number of alumni withholding donations was small compared to contributions to the Campaign for William and Mary.

Nichol defended his decision in the Nov. 16, 2007 BOV meeting, while money went back and forth. Supporters donated to make up for those retracting donations. Last February, founder and former CEO of the United Coal Company James McGlothlin ’62 J.D.’64 pulled his \$12 million donation because he was upset by the cross’s removal. Tom Mikula ’48 and Marilyn Entwisle ’44, who both pledged \$12,000 to the College and called for 1,000 others to make up for this, the biggest loss.

This year, questions about McGlothlin’s retraction resurfaced. Jim Jones ’82 had given the BOV a 40-page document arguing that Nichol should be fired. The presentation included a letter to Jones from McGlothlin. In the July 18 e-mail, McGlothlin stated that he never fully committed to the donation. He said that he had told former College President Tim Sullivan ’66 the previous December that he no longer planned to make the donation. The presentation included allegations that Nichol knew of McGlothlin’s retraction of the money before he announced that the Campaign for William and Mary had met its \$500 million goal.

Nichol said that he had never misrepresented the amount of money in the campaign, and that he did not know McGlothlin would retract the \$12 million until the campaign had already ended.

Nichol also said that he had discussed the donation with Sullivan, but Sullivan did not mention McGlothlin’s plan to revoke the money. Nichol said that he learned of the pledge Feb. 23, when he received a letter that had been forwarded to the BOV Feb. 16, in which McGlothlin said that he planned to withhold a large donation. That letter became public in February 2007.

Like Jones, the anti-Nichol website ShouldNicholBeRenewed.org used this uncertainty as the basis for their main argument that Nichol should be fired, taking the view that Sullivan told Nichol about the \$12 million loss, and Nichol subsequently ignored it due to the criticisms that had been surfacing ever since his decision concerning the removal of the Wren cross. College officials released the e-mail in which Sullivan warned Nichol that the pledge was “in jeopardy” two months before Nichol said that he actually learned of the retraction.

Nichol had appointed a committee to

deal with the controversy surrounding the placement of the cross called the Committee on Religion in a Public University. It was made up of students and professors and chaired by Ball Professor of Law Alan Meese ’86 and Religion Professor Emeritus James Livingston. After only a few meetings, they made their decision Apr. 16 to place the cross in a display case with a plaque explaining the College’s historic ties with Bruton Parish Church and its Anglican roots. The cross was placed in its glass case in August. The conflict seemed to have been resolved, though criticisms continued to surface for Nichol.

Following the cross conflict, Nichol seemed to face scrutiny concerning almost all of his actions. His most recent difficulty arose with the hosting of this year’s Sex Workers’ Art Show, which tours the country with former or current workers in the sex industry who talk about their experiences and perform various pieces. This was the second year in a row that the show was hosted by the College.

Nichol said that although he did not approve of the content of the student-funded show, he would not agree to censor it. However, a vocal anti-Nichol minority raised issue with the “questionable” content on a college campus.

Nichol faced vocal criticisms of his presidency until the day he resigned. Early in December the BOV decided to delay a decision about his contract; Rector Michael Powell ’85 sent an e-mail Sept. 28 telling students that the BOV would vote on Nichol in the February or April meeting in 2008. The BOV announced that they would not renew his contract after its meeting last week, and Nichol sent an e-mail informing the College community of his resignation, sparking varied responses, including reflection on Nichol’s actions and his overall influence on campus.



ALEX HAGLUND — THE FLAT HAT
Nichol hugs a student at the rally Tuesday.

Nichol steps down

NICHOL *from page 1*

College’s diversity.

Powell released a short statement soon after Nichol’s e-mail, which announced that the board would appoint College Law School Dean Taylor Reveley in interim.

“The Board is cognizant that its decision will be deeply disappointing to many, especially members of our faculty and student body,” Powell said, referring to Nichol’s non-renewal. “Our sacred stewardship and full insight into the affairs of the College convinced us change was necessary to advance the best interests of the College. We understand the sense of loss and will work hard to heal all wounds.”

Within hours, a protest movement had materialized in the Sunken Garden, where over 200 students, faculty and staff held a rally in support of Nichol. Dean of Admissions Henry Broadbuss and Provost Geoff Feiss were in attendance, and both expressed disappointment with the decision.

“I feel deeply the pain, and it’s terribly important that people have the opportunity to express that — their anger, their frustration,” Feiss said. “What we need to do is honor the things that Gene Nichol stood for.”

Feiss likened Nichol’s resignation to a death in the family. At 10 p.m. that night, over 1,000 students gathered in front of the President’s house in support of Nichol, who greeted and spoke to the crowd.

“You have taught me much more than I have taught you,” Nichol said. “I cannot say how much it means to have you here in tremendous numbers.”

The protests continued Wednesday, with students holding a “sit-in” at the College’s University Center and many College faculty canceling classes and remaining on unofficial strike. By then, protesting student and faculty were calling for BOV transparency. A student group called Honest WM created a petition protesting the BOV’s decision, criticizing the process that led to the non-renewal and requesting Powell to appear before the College community and answer student questions. The petition collected 900 student signatures.

The contact information of the BOV members had also been released over Facebook, and many students were calling and e-mailing members to question them about the decision. Despite the BOV’s communication, there was no mistaking the anger of the student protestors, who continued their outcry yesterday, holding a teach-in at the Sunken Garden where faculty held small classes on subjects of their choosing. Throughout Tuesday, Reveley was working on damage control, organizing his interim administration and asking

the College to move forward.

“An alumnus of the law school sent me an e-mail, and he didn’t know whether this was a promotion, a civic duty or a sentence,” Reveley said. “I’m focusing on the civic duty dimension. I’m doing this because I think I can help the university get through a difficult period and do some good.”

Reveley also said he understood why students were upset about the decision.

“I think one reason we’re having so much reaction is people care so intensely about this place, particularly the students. I mean this really is your school. You care about it so you’re responding very vigorously to something that you either don’t understand or don’t like.”

The undergraduate faculty of arts and sciences also held a special meeting yesterday to discuss their response to the renewal. At the meeting, the faculty passed a motion requesting Powell to visit the College and answer questions on the board’s decision.

A motion to submit a vote of no confidence in the BOV was delayed until the faculty’s next meeting in March. The faculty also referred to the Faculty Affairs Committee a motion requesting the BOV to outline how they consider staff and student input in administrative decisions. Many faculty were surprised to hear that the BOV had hired a consulting firm to assess Nichol’s presidency, and that they had apparently only interviewed three individual faculty members in the process. The three were Dean of Arts and Sciences Carl Strikwerda, Ball Professor of Law and President of the College’s Faculty Assembly Alan Meese ’86 and Chancellor Professor of Sociology Kate Slevin.

Jim Jones ’82, spokesperson for ShouldNicholBeRenewed.org, said the group does not plan to continue as an organization. The group criticized Nichol on a number of issues and had been urging the BOV to fire Nichol.

Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen ’09, who serves as student representative to the BOV, sent an e-mail to students yesterday saying that the SA had requested that Powell come to campus to answer student questions. The SA set up a website for questions to be submitted.

“[The BOV] made this decision in a closed room, and they only informed the president on Sunday — after he had already performed for them on Sunday,” Pilchen said.

“Students aren’t upset with William and Mary. Students understand that William and Mary is more than 17 people who come here four times a year and make these omnipotent decisions about how William and Mary should run.”

Reveley appointed as interim

REVELEY *from page 1*

College presidency in 2005, after former College President Timothy Sullivan’s retirement.

“An alumnus of the law school sent me an e-mail, and he didn’t know whether this was a promotion, a civic duty or a sentence,” Reveley said.

“I’m focusing on the civic duty dimension,” he added. “I’m doing this because I think I can help the university get through a difficult period and do some good.”

Reveley also said that, while he will only serve in the interim, he would try to lead an active presidency.

“What I’ve been asked to do is not be a caretaker, but to help the College keep moving forward,” he said.

He noted that the College will work to increase student and faculty diversity, internationalize the College campus, foster civic duty and continue the College’s Gateway Program, which improves financial aid to low-income Virginia students.

These issues were a large part of Nichol’s tenure. In his e-mail to students yesterday, Nichol cited his commitment to diversity and Gateway as some of the most controversial aspects of his tenure.

Reveley said, however, that those initiatives were part of the College before Nichol’s presidency.

“These are things that have been around William and Mary for a long time; they certainly characterize Tim Sullivan’s presidency,” Reveley said. “What [Nichol] did was put some ... passion into them,” he added.

In a statement released to students and faculty yesterday, Reveley stressed the need for the College community to move past recent events.

He also expressed sympathy for Nichol.

“This is a difficult time of transition not just for William and Mary but also for Gene Nichol and his family,” Reveley wrote in the statement. “Nick and Glenn [George, Nichol’s wife] are my good friends. They have my very best wishes.”

Reveley also said that he wants to improve the College’s national reputation and move away from the controversies that have garnered national attention in the past 16 months.

He cited the Wren cross and the Sex Workers’ Art Show as the issues that have distracted attention from other College initiatives.

“We need to start talking about other things,” he said.

Reveley also said that the search for a new president may take a long time, and that he would not be surprised if he were to serve in interim for more than one year.

He also addressed the student and faculty protests that have

occurred throughout campus. Many students held a “sit-in” at the University Center Wednesday and some faculty held an unofficial strike that caused the cancelation of many classes Wednesday and Thursday.

“I think one reason we’re having so much reaction is people care so intensely about this place, particularly the students,” he said.

“I mean this really is your school,” Reveley said. “You care about it so you’re responding very vigorously to something that you either don’t understand or don’t like.”

Reveley said that he plans to address students more publicly in the coming days.

“I’m going to do my level

best for the school they love,” he said, referring to students. “William and Mary’s ... one of the genuinely great, enduring institutions. I want to help push it forward.”

Reveley attended Princeton and the University of Virginia for law school.

He then clerked for Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. and worked at the law firm Hunton and Williams in Richmond for 28 years before he became the Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law in 1998, where he remained until he was appointed interim president Tuesday.

Flat Hat Associate News Editor Alex Guillén contributed to this report.

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Coming Attractions...

***In the Heat of the Night* (1967)**
Sat., Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m.

***Gone With the Wind* (1939)**
Sat., Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

***The Godfather* (1972)**
Sun., Feb. 17 at 1:30 p.m.

Live Performances...

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation presents
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Sun., Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.
General admission \$12, Children under 6 \$5

The Kimball Theatre presents
Xiayin Wang in Concert
Fri., Feb. 22 at 8 p.m.
General admission \$20, Seniors/Students \$18

OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

A painful, proper decision

No college wishes for a week like this. No president rises each morning hoping to find his days numbered. No board looks forward to firing a man who won its highest praise only two years prior.

But today, this hardship is necessary. Painful as it is, the Board of Visitors was right not to renew College President Gene Nichol’s contract. Months of discussion, independent research and outside input have proved one thing: Nichol’s executive failures and a pattern of mismanagement clearly indicate that he is no longer qualified for the job. Now comes the time for reconciliation — for moving on.

Two and a half years ago, Nichol swept onto campus with a presence almost too large to be allowed. His eloquence enraptured. His passion inspired. Without him, programs like the Gateway Initiative might still be a pleasant idea in search of funding, but today dozens of students have been granted an incredible opportunity to attend the College.

Just four months ago, we were calling for Nichol’s renewal. But our opinion on Nichol evolved as we studied his presidency, with recent editorials expressing deep skepticism. His relationships with donors soured and serious ethical questions arose concerning whether he knowingly misrepresented fundraising figures. Controversy made Nichol himself the issue, and this has impeded his ability to lead effectively.

Painful as it is, the Board of Visitors was right not to renew Gene Nichol’s contract.

His decision to remove the Wren cross without prior consultation represented the most high-profile action in what became a pattern of unilateral policy-making. This pattern included decisions such as implementing multi-million dollar, though admittedly worthy, programs like the Gateway Initiative without consulting the governing board or securing consistent funding sources.

While we understand those who overlooked Nichol’s administrative missteps and admired him for his passion and energy, it is in the management of the College, its finances and its image that he was charged to lead, and it is in these areas that he failed.

The BOV resisted the temptation of an indefensible knee-jerk reaction, and instead deliberated for four ponderous months. The BOV reached out, seeking input via e-mail from those wishing to contribute to the debate.

What’s more, the BOV hired an independent consulting firm to assess the situation. That firm reached the same conclusion: As an executive, Nichol had performed poorly. A unanimous consensus from the board sealed his fate. The investigation was fair and its assessments were accurate. We may never know the extent to which ideological concerns were a factor in the decision not to renew Nichol, but it is clear that his administrative failures alone warrant the BOV’s decision. We hope those disillusioned with the outcome will, in time, come to agree.

The current vilification of the BOV is disheartening, but anticipated. Many of the attacks on the members’ characters and their decision are unfair. Most BOV members are Democrats, and all were either appointed or reappointed by Democratic governors. Many give considerable sums to liberal candidates’ campaigns. Despite what protesters have not-so-subtly intimidated, the group is in no way a conservative cabal. Ideology, it appears, was not the driving factor.

Although we worry about the dangers of this mischaracterization of the board, we are far more concerned with the decision’s potential to foment further conflict between alumni and students. If one thing has been made abundantly clear in recent days and weeks, it’s that both groups possess a deep love for the College.

Continued dedication to the College is paramount. We admire the civility and passion of the demonstrators. However, student strikes, class cancellations and especially withheld donations do little to further any educational mission. The College has suffered enough during the year and a half leading up to this decision. If potential donors, including members of the senior class, harbor ideological concerns, contributing directly to programs like the Gateway Initiative will do more to promote the continuation of Nichol’s ideals than not donating.

The College will move on. We must remember that Nichol’s presidency represents just three out of 315 years of this institution’s history. A university that has survived the Civil War and Great Depression can likely endure this period of turmoil. We must come together and trust Interim President Taylor Reveley to steady the ship. United support from students, faculty and alumni will help bring the College through this troubled time.

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BY OLIVIA WALCH, FLAT HAT CARTOONIST

Sic semper tyrannis

Dan Piepenbring

FLAT HAT STAFF COLUMNIST



Tuesday at 2 p.m., mere hours after College President Gene Nichol announced his immediate resignation, students rallied in his honor in the Sunken Garden. Thus began a docile, funeral-like grieving session — a disappointment in every respect.

Why aren’t we angry? Where is the hard proof of our outrage? At a time when the entire campus should’ve spewed vitriol, the pro-Nichol rally was fawning and precious, a public display of affection. People smiled, cheered; friends traded sycophantic anecdotes. Nothing was lit on fire, and cries of “Fuck the BOV!” were far from acidic. Nichol had been martyred for the cause; in the process, the cause was entirely forgotten.

Advocates of reasoned discussion are as lost as those seeking drastic retaliation — there should be more overlap among these groups.

In the aftermath of the news, several friends and I yearned to do something momentous. Burn BOV Rector Michael Powell in effigy? Nah, we could get arrested. Defecate on the BOV’s conference table? None of us had to go. Start a riot? Maybe, but apathy would constrict its scope.

We turned, ultimately, to that most divisive of organs: political satire. Our ally was historical precedent — during the French Revolution, cartoonists shocked vast readerships with explicit gore and sex, like men riding penis-horses or bloody heads fresh from the guillotine. The dialogue was frank to the point of brutality, but it retained an intellectual edge.

In the spirit of those commentators, we designed a prurient flyer in which Nichol, defeated, is sodomized by the fist of Christ. Tasteless and gratuitous, the illustration bent the First Amendment to its breaking point. The subtext, we thought, was painstakingly obvious: The religious right has fucked our College. Hard.

Oh, how wrong we were. When it comes to singing the praises of ribald allegories, our student body is tone-deaf. Our message was radical and offensive, but its most ardent detractors were not Christians or Republicans, but those ostensibly on our side. The rally, then at the height of its neutered discourse, met our flyer with more derision than laughter. It had

its fans, sure, but many so-called “protesters” couldn’t grasp its unobvious pro-Nichol implications. A copy made its way to the hands of a speaker, who tore it up to applause. It was, as a friend put it, a dismal moment for satire.

If risqué, envelope-pushing humor isn’t at home on a college campus, where does it belong? Our maddening crowds are nowhere to be found. We are either too listless or too afraid of consequences to get pissed off. At other universities, couches and cars are set aflame after mere sporting events. Here, our entire liberal arts ideology verges on annihilation, and only candles for Nichol are burning.

Meanwhile, on America’s other coast, University of California-Berkeley students major in porn studies.

In an increasingly ironic gesture, the great seal of Virginia bears the motto, “Sic Semper Tyrannis,” or “thus to all tyrants.” The seal depicts virtue as a woman, spear in hand, vanquished despot underfoot. But the College has caved to

tyranny. Our tormentors hold a lot of money and control our access to it. Vexed questions arise about how beholden we are to alumni funding, to what extent we should curb liberalism to woo donors and how this balance of finances and values will impact our mission statement. Our institution is dramatically different than it was 20 years ago. Can its past, present and future make amends?

These issues aren’t widely debated on campus, and if they were, they would affect no paradigm shift. Advocates of reasoned discussion are as lost as those seeking drastic retaliation — there should be more overlap among these groups. We tried talking it out, time and again; anonymous visitors to The Flat Hat website calumniated and disparaged writers. Now we’ve lost, and what have students done? Shrugged glumly, gathered in modest numbers to mourn a man while his modus operandi exits stage right. This weekend, most will attend parties and drink. By Blowout, the resignation will have blown over.

We must do something: incite, violate, revolt, destroy, denigrate, vilify, disgust. We must be the subjects of these verbs, not their direct objects. This is the only way to prevent our defeat from settling and receding.

The process failed us. Respectful behavior didn’t work. Get angry about it.

Dan Piepenbring is a senior at the College.

After being ignored for too long, we will be heard

Max Fisher

FLAT HAT CHIEF STAFF WRITER



Our voices have gone ignored for too long. The Board of Visitors knows the student body, the faculty and the majority of alumni support College President Gene Nichol. Yet we were overruled because we refuse to fight dirty like Nichol’s handful of detractors.

Some say Nichol’s firing was financial, some say managerial. The real cause, I fear, was a few anti-Nichol ideologues who managed to overpower a well-intentioned, politically neutral BOV.

No more. No more being ignored on our own campus. No more sitting politely while they cart away our president and our principles alike. No more allowing a few crazed extremists to run our education.

They have gone after our president, our student-funded art and our religious equality. Unless we act, the books we can read and subjects we can discuss will be next. The black studies department was

almost abolished by the BOV of 10 years ago. Linda Skladany ’66, now a vehement proponent of Nichol’s firing, was on the BOV at the time. I fear for her next target.

It is time for us to rise up and finally be heard. It is time for us to tell these outside extremists that this is our campus, this is our College and we will be heard.

William and Mary does not belong to a wealthy coal magnate in Texas named James McGlothlin ’62 J.D. ’64. William and Mary does not belong to dirty state legislators from districts a hundred miles away.

William and Mary does not belong to reactionary, vitriolic bloggers like Jim Jones ’82, Lance Kyle ’89 or their cowardly, anonymous cohorts.

William and Mary belongs to the 7,000 students living on its campus. William and Mary belongs to the distinguished professors filling its classrooms. William and Mary belongs to those who tread its grounds and give it life. William and Mary is ours and we will be heard.

Some have claimed Virginia residency as justification for making demands of us, saying they fund our College through

taxes. But the average Virginian provides about \$7 annually and has no experience in university administration. An individual Virginian is no more qualified to dictate our policies than they are to tell a surgeon at a public hospital how to remove a tumor.

Members of the BOV have stated

The nation’s alma mater has been seized by a small group of extremist ideologues with the money and the tenacity to intimidate the BOV into handing it over.

that they did not fire Nichol for ideological reasons. I believe this is true. Yet, because the external forces strong-arming the BOV did so for their own reactionary ideology, Nichol’s firing remains fundamentally and undeniably ideological.

I fear the BOV was at least partially motivated by unwillingness to withstand criticism. Most BOV members sit on five or more such boards throughout the country, the College typically requiring only a few days a year. Some live as far

as Delaware or New Jersey. Only one lives in Williamsburg.

When the anti-Nichol radicals hounded BOV members with e-mails, phone calls and political pressure, it was more than they were willing to tolerate. Their resolution was tested daily and, after two years, they folded.

Those radicals, though a tiny minority, a fraction of a percentage, won using money, political blackmail and, most effectively, a non-stop, 24/7 publicity war.

We have allowed them to dominate for too long. If the BOV is going to surrender its power to whomever speaks loudest, then that voice must be ours.

We must make our voices heard in the Sunken Garden, in the local and national media, in Richmond, in Washington.

Our story has already begun to spread. I have had concerned messages from New York, California, Buenos Aires and Tel Aviv. People are finding out; we are being heard.

The nation’s alma mater has been seized by a small group of extremist ideologues with the money and the tenacity to intimidate the BOV into handing it

over. But their victory will be short-lived.

It’s time to stand up. Time to tell the extremists we will not allow them to take our College. Time to make our voice heard by the criminals counting on our silence.

Tell Jones: You are harming the College and you are not welcome. Tell McGlothlin: We don’t want your dirty money and you are not welcome. Tell Del. Timothy Hugo ’86: You have no business blackmailing our BOV for cheap political gain and you are not welcome.

Tell Skladany: Waging anti-liberal culture war on the institution you used to serve is repugnant and you are not welcome. Tell Thomas Lipscomb ’61: You may have sunk John Kerry, but you will not sink our education and you are not welcome.

For the past two years the voices of a well-organized, ill-intentioned and overtly manipulative few have dominated the College in the press, in the minds of the BOV and in the national discourse.

It’s time to put a stop to this. It’s up to us. We will make this right. We will be heard.

Max Fisher is a senior at the College.

Nichol’s legacy of education, democracy

Colleen Gunning

FLAT HAT GUEST COLUMNIST



Judging by initial reactions, much of our student body is disgusted with the Board of Visitors, outraged at the abrupt end of Gene Nichol’s presidency and aggrieved to see him leaving. It is only fitting to sum up Nichol’s term in office so as to give due to their feelings, to the decision of the BOV and to Nichol.

One of the few students I’ve heard from today who is happily bidding “good riddance” to our president charged Nichol with poor decision-making that “didn’t reflect the students’ opinions.” Ironically, pro-Nichol students are now leveling the same charge at the BOV. His main point of contention, of course, revolves around the Wren cross debacle. My first inclination was to reply that even

if Nichol had mishandled the situation, he at least had noble intentions — to uphold the secular humanist and democratic spirit of, say, College alumnus Thomas Jefferson.

That struck a deeper chord, though. If Nichol were reacting only to meet the needs of those who felt uncomfortable by the cross’s presence, then really, his actions can be characterized as simply a rookie mistake. This type of mistake is one that the early founders grappled with as well — weighing outspoken minorities with silent majorities, deliberating the benefits of democracy with the excesses of mob rule. (My fellow Morton-dwellers might recognize such documents as the Federalist Papers.)

In the Wren cross incident, it quickly became clear that Nichol had erred on the side of the minority opinion. If only he had consulted with others — but why would he have seen a need to do so? Until the issue arose, only one side was speaking out. So yes, it was a mistake,

but one democratically made; he mis-stepped because he was listening to students, not because he ignored them.

The only purpose of a mistake is to learn from it, and it became clear last week, in the hosting of the Sex Workers’ Art Show, that he had achieved a successful balance. Yes, there were protestors

I’m throwing my voice in with the loud crowd that gathered in support of our president on the Sunken Garden and across campus mere hours after Nichol’s resignation.

(we should worry if there weren’t any). But overall, this second controversial episode during his tenure was handled in a delicately diplomatic way — soliciting co-sponsors from other student organizations. By showing that the very organizations that compete for student activity

money support the Art Show, the use of student funds, which had so many up in arms, was addressed. Democratic consensus was achieved, as each organization debated whether to extend its support.

The other decisions Nichol cites in his letter to us are more administrative in nature and draw less controversy. I would hazard, though, that our student body, particularly our Gateway students and our excellent, estimable (and diverse) freshman and sophomore classes, find themselves supporting these measures.

While alumni such as James McGlothlin ’62 J.D. ’64 may not approve of our president, others, more famous and more enduringly influential (Jefferson, for example), certainly would. The last few years have spawned innumerable debates, protests and campaigns. Ultimately, this has created a student body now brimming with more activism than previous years.

I’m throwing my voice in with the loud crowd that gathered in support of

our president on the Sunken Garden and across campus mere hours after Nichol’s resignation. While the BOV felt that, in the words of Rector Michael Powell ’85, the College under Nichol was not “reaching its full potential,” I believe his tenure has been a broadening example to all of us.

I regret the BOV’s decision, which many students see as undemocratically imposed on the College. Above all, I hope Nichol will cherish the idea that he leaves us — to appropriate Powell’s words again — a “stronger and more enduring” student body that has received a spectacular education in democracy over the last three years. I also hope that, in agreement or not with our president, the College’s students will respect his legacy of education — particularly those of us who are becoming politically keener even as we lament the casualties of politics.

Colleen Gunning is a junior at the College.

Letters to the Editor

Sleaziness and secrecy To the Editor:

Many people are appalled and horrified at the recent decision by the Board of Visitors to not renew College President Gene Nichol. There is also a substantial group of students who think his subsequent resignation is the appropriate course of action for the college and best path for the future.

Yet, there is more to the story than his immediate resignation and the BOV’s attempt to provide Nichol “substantial economic incentives” to avoid discussing the decision. There is the manner in which the BOV reached its decision. Under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, it is illegal to hold a vote in a closed session of a meeting. During the past BOV meeting, no vote was held on Nichol’s renewal and some observers concluded that no decision had yet been reached. When news broke that the BOV had reached a decision, Rector Michael Powell ’85 was contacted by a student who had been following the situation closely, accusing him of illegally reaching a decision.

Powell addressed the discrepancy by saying no decision was made regarding Nichol’s contract; it was simply allowed to lapse. Renewal is a positive action that would have required a vote in open session, but Powell justified the decision not to renew and not have a vote as something that required no action (it would happen naturally), so no vote would be required.

Now I suppose this may be legal, technically. However, it is certainly sleazy and a most unfortunate way of handling the matter. The decision was made behind closed doors, without student consultation, and Nichol was not even given the legitimacy of an “up or down” vote by the BOV on the most important decision of his career.

It is my belief that it is the way the BOV chose to handle this tense situation that has inspired such a tremendous student response. Had the BOV more actively included student and faculty voices and held a vote, the decision would still be displeasing to many, but more legitimate due to the observance of due process. By disregarding due process and taking unilateral action, the BOV has perpetrated the same crime it accused Nichol of committing.

Student protest should be galvanized and focused around this crime. We cannot ask them to change their decision; but we can ask them to explain the rationale behind the decision, why it was conducted in secrecy, without student input, using a legalistic and fundamentally unsatisfying rationale to avoid a vote. While students cannot change this decision, they indisputably deserve an answer to one pressing question: why has the BOV eviscerated the fundamental elements of democracy in order to sanction a defender of free speech?

— David Husband ’09

Nichol ignored College’s past To the Editor:

When College President Gene Nichol resigned Tuesday, I wrote a letter to the College community making excuses for some of his decisions while president. Below I respond to the first two of his four points.

The chapel is a part of the foundation of the College — a college established to train Anglican priests for service in the New World. The controversial Protestant cross that resides there is not particularly old, but it is reasonable to believe that there were many such crosses in the chapel, classrooms and living areas of the Wren Building. Nichol’s effort to strip Christianity from the chapel is an insult to the history of the College. That Protestant cross in a once-Protestant chapel does not offend me in the least, despite the fact that in colonial times my Catholic co-religionists were banned from public office in the Virginia colony and priests were forced to flee to Maryland for their lives for the crime of celebrating a mass in the Old Dominion.

Today, it is extreme secularists such as Nichol who persecute my co-religionists and other people of faith. Between 1980 and ’81, I was president of the William and Mary Catholic Student Association (now called the Catholic Campus Ministry) and attended Catholic mass numerous times in the Wren Chapel, which, then, as now, was non-denominational. I thought that the Protestant cross was a lovely symbol of how the best of the Christian faith of the early College lives on in a broader respect for the

moral foundation of Western civilization today.

In Nichol’s letter, he could not even bring himself to say the words “Sex Workers” [prostitutes] Art Show.” Could it be that he is too embarrassed to mention which student-fee-based activity he refused to ban? What would he have done if the student government paid to sponsor an art show praising Adolf Hitler or showing disrespect to Islam? I bet he would have banned such student-funded displays in a New York minute.

In his arrogant and extreme secular liberalism, Nichol never bothered to understand the foundations of the College that he served as president. When it was founded, the College embodied the best of Western civilization on the edge of a savage wilderness. Back then, the savages were the Native Americans. Now they are the secularist liberal barbarians like him.

I wish Nichol luck in his future endeavors. In his letter he claimed that Thomas Jefferson “argued for a ‘wall of separation between church and state.’” Actually, Jefferson used the phrase precisely once in personal correspondence while frequently arguing the need for religious-based moral principles as the foundation of a free society. I hope that Nichol’s law school lectures are better and more fairly researched than his resignation letter.

— Tony Delserone BBA ’82

A president worth fighting for To the Editor:

I would like to think that the students on campus would have something to say about the resignation (firing) of College President Gene Nichol. Do the currents students not see how the College needs a president like Nichol? From my viewpoint, Nichol was and is exactly what the current and future students of the College need in a president. Isn’t that worth fighting for?

— Jeff Mosher ’85

Unforgivable decision To the Editor:

Board of Visitors’ Rector Michael Powell’s ’85 trite excuses for firing College President Gene Nichol do nothing to cover up the horrendous decision made by the BOV. The fact that the BOV has refused to stand with its own president in the face of a tiny handful of donors, no matter how wealthy, is unforgivable.

The BOV may have ensured that the College will receive a few more dollars now, but I can guarantee that, in the long run, this decision will not be forgotten by many students and alumni. Any donor or politician who is willing to embarrass the College, as this bunch has done, are not friends of the College and do not have this school’s best interests in mind.

In Powell’s letter, he promises that he will continue to support Nichol’s policies, yet he will not support Nichol. The College’s administration has a history of saying one thing and doing another altogether, something I remember clearly as a student liaison to the BOV in 2002 and 2003. It appears that, with the departure of Nichol, this policy will resume.

I know that I speak for many graduates, both recent and otherwise, when I say that with this news I will never give a penny to the College, unless a great deal is done to make amends for the actions of the BOV. The College has made a step away from progress and away from recognizing and supporting all its students equally. Today, I am ashamed to call the College my alma mater.

— Jake Hosen ’05

Mary Washington student responds To the Editor:

As a student from a neighboring university, I have often visited the College and looked fondly upon its rich traditions, diverse student body, outstanding faculty and high aesthetic quality. Although I was impressed by all of these aspects, I was deeply envious of the most striking facet of the college: the steadfast leadership of College President Gene Nichol. Fiercely loyal, stoutly resolved, intellectually vigorous, socially courageous and morally indomitable, Nichol was as inspiring as he was capable.

As a Roman Catholic and pilgrim to Israel, I view his decision to alter the appearance of the cross in the Wren Chapel as an appropriate symbol of compassion that best honors the teachings of Jesus Christ.

As a student whose economic background has closed doors to many fine educational institutions in our great country, I consider the Gateway scholarship program one of the most progressive remedies to poverty that Virginia has witnessed in recent years.

As a student of history, I recognize his willingness to question superficial assumptions as a singularly reverent allegiance to the ideological foundations promulgated by the Virginia Bill of Rights and American Constitution.

Without question, Nichol has influenced the educational landscape of Virginia in a way rarely witnessed. His tenure, though brief, will be spoken of fondly by the many lives he touched for years to come. The stuff of movies, his ousting belies the goals of an institution intended to foster intellectual growth, demonstrating the truly unfortunate nature of academic politics.

As a policy maker, his leadership had the finer qualities of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, which is perhaps the best compliment I can pay him.

I wish Nichol and his family every success and blessing, and I strongly encourage other leaders to emulate his brave and forthright direction in his attempt to usher in a new age of enlightenment and compassion at the College.

— N. Slade Bond II
University of Mary Washington ’08

Demanding an answer To the Editor:

I strongly disagree with the Board of Visitors’ decision not to renew College President Gene Nichol’s contract. I have read both its statement and Nichol’s, finding the BOV’s more than wanting. The BOV seems to agree with the four policy issues Nichol cited as “thorns.” What then were the grounds on which it made its decision?

The only explanation in its statement is this: “After an exhaustive review, however, the Board believed there were a number of problems that were keeping the College from reaching its full potential and concluded that those issues could not be effectively remedied without a change of leadership.”

I believe that the College, its staff, faculty and alumni (not to mention Nichol) deserve to know what these problems are and why Nichol could not lead us to our “full potential.” It is unfair to those who support him not to give a full explanation. It is also irresponsible not to share with the College community any problems that face us as a whole.

I hope that a more complete explanation of the BOV’s reasons will be forthcoming. As a recent alumnus, I have been truly disappointed in the conduct of the BOV since I graduated. Having followed the Wren cross “crisis” from afar, I can’t help but wonder whether it was the threat of decreased giving from some large donors that prompted this latest decision. In the absence of an adequate explanation from the BOV, I think many people will fear the worst. I sincerely hope that was not the BOV’s motivation.

The College and its leaders should be above such petty and individual pressures and focused on the common good, which cannot and should not be measured by the height of the William and Mary Fund thermometer.

I respectfully request that the BOV respond to the questions I raise here, either by a public explanation or an e-mail. When I left the College, I was confident it was in safe hands but my confidence has been shaken today.

— Jonathan Tew ’06

Turmoil on campus To the Editor:

I have been reading e-mails back and forth all day yesterday about our current turmoil and the resignation of College President Gene Nichol. My concern is that we as an institution are sliding into a political mud pit. Whether or not the BOV made the correct decision, only history can decide. But I firmly believe that it is completely out of line for the Student Assembly to send e-mails out to the student body with any political overtones.

A close friend of mine and a member of the Class of 2009 had to read e-mails from his class president bashing one of his favorite professional sports teams after a recent loss. These personal

opinions do not help any one stay informed about campus events. If SA President Zach Pilchen ’09 can send out his personal opinions to all undergraduate students then I should have the same right. There are a great many students on campus who believe that the BOV decision was the correct one to make, myself included. Why have none of these individuals gotten the chance to e-mail their opinions to the student body?

My personal opinion is that the SA needs an academic advisor to proof all future e-mails. It is obvious that they lack the maturity to put the needs of the community above their own political opinions.

A few excerpts from Pilchen, which I found offensive coming from a 20-year-old:

“We are particularly ashamed of the way the BOV chose to handle this situation. Michael Powell’s statement on the BOV’s decision rings empty.”

“This was a decision made in a closed room with no recorded vote. We have yet to hear anything but evasive, cheap rhetoric from the Rector. ... The BOV has a responsibility to the College community to not hide behind closed doors, and to act with behavior befitting William and Mary. Sadly, they have failed in that duty.”

I would be happy to meet with any administrator to discuss how Pilchen and other members of the SA have failed in their duties to represent the entire student body. Nichol prides himself on the diversity of people and opinions, which he brought to campus, yet the only voices I hear in this matter are anti-BOV fanatics. To me it seems that a diversity of opinion is only celebrated when those opinions are in line with the liberal attitudes of campus leaders.

— John F. Ockerman ’08

Ashamed alum To the Editor:

Today, I am ashamed to be an alumna of the College. A year ago I was proud because under the direction of College President Gene Nichol, I felt that the College was finally becoming a true public institution, welcoming to all people and open to new ideas. I was just sad that I had graduated too soon to experience for myself the benefits of his governance.

With the firing of Nichol, unimaginable damage has been done to the reputation and future of the College. I cannot support, financially or ideologically, a school that has proven it does not know what is of real value, and I know that I am not alone in this. The Board of Visitors has disgraced our community, and I hope that the faculty, students and staff will not suffer too terribly for the BOV’s mistakes.

— Lindsay Bloch ’04

Embarrassed alum To the Editor:

I am very sorry that College President Gene Nichol and his family have had to deal with this terrible situation. I was a proud graduate of the College. The events of the past year and the solemn news this week, however, make me feel very embarrassed that a school, which sells itself as the epitome of liberal arts, actually is controlled by a small group of closed minded, egotistical bullies. Of course, the Board of Visitors and the Republican House of Delegates fall right into lock step with this small slice of the College community because of their money. Isn’t it always about the money?

I am embarrassed that the school I once held in such high esteem believes that freedom of thought and expression have no place on a college campus. I’m also embarrassed that a minority opinion could carry the day by waging a war against Nichol. It’s unfortunate that students and alumni are caught in the middle — and the strong reputation of the College ultimately suffers from their relentless assault.

I admire the way that Nichol has handled himself in the face of the vast, right wing conspiracy. They threw everything at him — including bribery — but he did not take their bait. It is unfortunate that the vocal few who have invoked Christianity as their rallying cry continually fail to remember that Christ taught us to love one another as ourselves.

— Greg Cota ’98

VARIETY

Students act on love for Nichol



In response to Gene Nichol’s resignation, students take action in support of their beloved president

By JESSICA GOLD
Flat Hat Staff Writer

During the 1960s and 1970s, students on college campuses across the country voiced their opinions concerning the Vietnam War in what was to become known as one of the most turbulent periods of protest at such institutions. Although not nearly as controversial or widespread as dissent over Vietnam, the College has experienced varying degrees of unrest in the days following the Board of Visitors’ decision not to renew President Gene Nichol’s contract and his subsequent resignation Tuesday morning.

The events began with a rally in the Sunken Garden Tuesday afternoon and a candlelit vigil in front of the president’s house that night and continued through various teach-ins and strikes organized by faculty members and students.

“[The student body’s reaction has been] extremely fiery,” Alex Spindel ’11 said. “It has been very motivated and extremely energetic. But I think the BOV has made up its mind, and nothing that happens now is going to change that.”

Despite some students’ views that the student activism will not affect the BOV, others remain persistent and continue with petitions and rallies. At a town

hall meeting held in the University Center Commonwealth Auditorium Wednesday afternoon, students, staff and faculty members drafted a list of demands from the BOV requiring a more adequate explanation for not renewing Nichol’s contract.

“It is my hope that the movements will show the Board of Visitors that any decision they make will need to be account[ed] for, and they can’t assume we will take it without a deeper understanding of why they made that decision,” Mallory Johnson ’10 said. “I hope it will lead to a deeper connection with the administration and the student body as a whole.”

Johnson was one of the speakers at the candlelit vigil held outside of Nichol’s house at 10 p.m. Tuesday. After the speeches, one of which was given by Nichol himself, roughly 1,500 students in attendance sang the Alma Mater and cheered for Nichol.

“Never in my wildest dreams had I imagined Tuesday night to be such an amazing turnout,” Johnson said. “It was truly emotional and really showed the true Tribe spirit. At that moment, when I looked out at the people there and saw the emotion, I have never been more proud to be a member of this college.”

Various other supporters from the vigil stayed afterward to leave letters and presents on the president’s doorstep.



Also among Nichol’s supporters at the vigil was Trevor Albert ’08, who went to the event to support Nichol and observe other students’ reactions. He ended up spending the night in front of Nichol’s house.

“I camped out in front of his house, not to protest or demand change, but just to show my support for president Nichol and his family,” Albert said. “I didn’t do it for a particular organization, and I wasn’t asked by anyone to do it. It’s a trying time for him and his family and I just wanted to support them.”

A common cry among many of those who have attended the rallies and sit-ins is a unified support of Nichol amongst students and faculty. Although some strongly advocate change in the BOV’s policy, others don’t see it as being radically effective.

“I see the different protests as a way to grieve,” Ashley Shuler ’08 said. “Not really sure what it has done or will do, but I do know this campus can be strengthened.”

Shuler and two other members of the NAACP campus chapter, Jeanette Snider ’09 and Justin Reid ’09, are behind the “If Nichol isn’t welcome here ... Neither am I” T-shirts. Shuler said they have sold almost 300 shirts for \$6 each, a price that only covers the production costs.

“We wanted to get the message to President Nichol that we love him and are here for him and are behind him,” Shuler said. “We wanted to make it an all-inclusive environment with a united front. We were really hoping for a domino effect, where a diverse group of people come together and can reach out to other students.”

Reid has also been part of a collaboration to start a website, TribeUnited.com.

See **ACTIVISM** page 9

CONFUSION CORNER

Honey, bring
momma her pills

Charlotte Savino
FLAT HAT COLUMNIST



Well, I did it. It finally happened. I caved. I got sick. Amidst all of the Nichol protests, the sit-ins and the candlelight singing, I was asleep. I had to find substitute instructors for fitness classes, didn’t go to academic classes (those that weren’t cancelled) and, much to my dismay, couldn’t show my solidarity.

Instead, I’ve been sweating, shivering, hydrating, eating, sleeping, drooling, vegging, reading, popping pills and driving my poor roommate crazy. “Get momma the Brita.” “Bring momma her pills.” “Momma’s eyes can’t take the overhead light.” It’s all very Gypsy Rose.

There’s something kind of comforting, however, in having her around to be surrogate mother. She encourages pizza eating and binge sleeping just like mom, but without all the guilt of the morning after.

Yes, being sick in the company of my best friend is kind of enjoyable. I shirk all of my responsibilities, eat what I want, demand menial tasks be taken care of and have no remorse for being a cranky child. Despite my facade of being the social butterfly, I hate interacting with people. Being sick is the perfect way to avoid any unwanted human interaction. Furthermore, I have carte blanche to be cranky and sour to almost anyone. I wonder how long this will last.

The Student Health Center prescription for wellness is to take three days off from school. They’ve stopped writing notes for students to show professors and, luckily, they’ve stopped insisting everyone is pregnant. They’re so overrun with sickies that this bug almost seems to be an epidemic. Now, with students protesting in close quarters, one can only imagine the second wave of illnesses.

Unfortunately, the best way to prevent illness is exactly what it takes to cure oneself. I find it incredibly difficult to take a personal day to rest, and now I’m being forced to remove myself from all responsibility (in theory) for three days or longer. If we could only just teach ourselves to say no to commitment, to eat better (I count pineapple pizza as an excellent source of vitamin C) and to be more realistic with our bodies, these recuperation periods wouldn’t last so long.

After last week’s column dedicated to fashion, I feel terrible trudging around in an outfit I’ve worn for two days straight. I wish there existed a universal sign for “sick” to explain away the pajama pants, sorority shirts, ratty hair, skin problem, Croc ensemble that I can’t seem to climb out of. At least the shirt is green and gold, lest any news cameras catch a student not showing Tribe Pride.

The shame about an early-semester flu epidemic is that it prevents people from getting into a routine. I have no rhythm, no standard operating procedure for second semester even after a month of school. I’m a little concerned that after a week of Nyquil-induced comas and ill-kempt hair, this may seem more normal than anything else.

Hydrate, keep sick friends quarantined, sleep for eight hours and take full advantage of the Dominos two-for-Tuesday offer — with pineapple.

Charlotte Savino is a Confusion Corner columnist. She’s just happy she’s not pregnant.

DoubleTake hosts
a cappella competition

By CHASE JOHNSON
Flat Hat Executive Editor

Tomorrow night, co-ed a cappella group DoubleTake will host the quarterfinals of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella.

The competition will be held at 7 p.m. in the UC Commonwealth Auditorium. Tickets are \$5.

The ICCA is an event that seeks out the best of the country’s a cappella groups in a series of regional competitions.

Tomorrow’s competition is one of three quarterfinals in the Southern region. It will feature performances by seven groups, including University of Maryland’s Faux Paz, Virginia Tech’s Soulstice and Naturally Sharp, James Madison University’s Note-oriety, Elon University’s Sweet Signatures, Catholic University’s Redline and DoubleTake.

According to DoubleTake Director Brittany Bonney ’08, each group will have 12 minutes to perform, which usually allows for three to four songs. After each group has performed, judges will determine which two teams will move on to the semifinals March 9 at Wake Forest University. Judges will also hand out individual awards for the best soloist, best choreography, best arrangement and best vocal percussion.

Students in attendance tomorrow can look forward to a rendition of Justin Timberlake’s “What Goes Around Comes Around” by Michael Smith ’08 and Caroline Jackson ’09, “Brother Can You Spare a Dime” by Victoria Ryan ’08 and “Bridge Over Troubled Water” by Ryan Miller ’09. Another campus a cappella group, Reveille, will provide entertainment during the judges’ deliberations.

Putter up

*Kappa Delta hosts the
largest philanthropy
event on campus*

By ANGELA DELGADO
The Flat Hat

Unsuspecting tourists strolling through the Sunken Garden tomorrow run the risk of being knocked unconscious by airborne tennis balls.

Tomorrow, the sisters of Kappa Delta will host their annual Campus Golf tournament in which golf balls are replaced with bright yellow tennis balls and big white buckets are used for holes.

Teams consist of four players — students, faculty or family — who are encouraged to play in costume. The costume contest is one of the main events that lures participants to the green — or brick. Prizes are awarded to winning teams. Attire ranges from the creative to the extreme.

“There was one team that dressed up as ‘The Walk of Shame,’” KD sister Megan Luckey ’08 said. “These girls had eyeliner all over their face and had ‘going-out’ tops with boy’s basketball shorts on. It looked like they walked straight over from a night



THE FLAT HAT — IRENE ROJAS

Adorned in animal print and spandex, a team of golfers plays a hole at Tucker Hall. While many teams embraced the default uber-preppy dress code, others developed their own creative themes.

at the frats,” Lauren Katkish ’08 said.

Every sister has her share of memorable moments from the past years. “My favorite was a Super Mario team that dressed up like all of the characters from the video game,” Katkish said. “They carried around a boom box that played the opening song, too.”

The tournament is not only about fun and games; it’s about raising money for a worthy cause. In 2006, KD accrued over \$12,000 for Avalon, a local shelter for women in abusive relationships. This amount increased in

2007. This year the sorority hopes to raise at least \$10,000 for Avalon and Prevent Child Abuse America.

“Most people think that sororities are only about friends and hanging out,” said Sarah Bennett ’08, who formerly served as the sorority’s president. “Philanthropies show that we care about giving back to our community. You can really see that by the amount of money our philanthropies raise.”

Tee times start at 9 a.m. and continue though out the day.

THAT GIRL

Jess Lamont

Samantha Fien-Helfman
FLAT HAT COLUMNIST



Jess Lamont is likely to be the only student on this campus who can read and write fluently in Sanskrit. Her passion is in the classics and has spent her years at the College educating herself about the subject. Jess serves as a research assistant, and as president of the anthropology club and has traveled extensively to acquire hands-on experience in the field — ranging from botany work with her father in Iceland to working on excavation sites in Greece, to leading museum tours in London. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and is currently working on her honors thesis about the idiosyncrasies of the Asklepios, a medicinal-healing cult in Athens. But Jess is more than just ancient letters and historic ruins. Despite her focus on the past, Jess exalts an unparalleled enthusiasm and excitement for the present that her friends describe as infectious and uplifting.

Can you tell me a little bit about where you are from?

I'm from the east end of Long Island, N.Y. I live right on the Long Island Sound, and it's pretty rural out there still. My family is wonderful. Wonderfully eccentric, too. My dad is a botanist and my mom's a park ranger. Unusual, you know? I have a little brother who's graduating from high school this year, and a black lab pup named Stinky. I love and miss them all so much; to say they mean the world to me would be an understatement.

What's your favorite game to play in long car rides?

The famous person game. It's like 20 Questions, except you choose a historical figure or a musician or celebrity, and the other people have to guess who it is. Everyone learns a little something and it's entertaining. My friend — who plays it avidly with his family — taught it to me in Spain. I'd love to tell you his name, but he'd probably be really embarrassed and question our friendship.

Do you get pretty competitive with that?

I'm always really competitive. Whenever we're playing a game or there's some sort of contest, I get really into it. Really, really into it. Like at random people camping trip this year, I got so aggressive when we were playing this manhunt, scavenger hunt type game I almost killed the people on the other team. During Orientation this year I played a game of ultimate frisbee with my hall, and I really frightened them because I was shouting at them and heckling the other team and stuff. They just didn't see it coming.

What spurred your interest in classical studies?

I took Latin for six years throughout high school and middle school. Then, upon coming into college, I took a lot of really interesting classes in the department, and it just stuck with me I guess. Even though it's not always relevant to every day life, it's been great. I worked on an excavation in Greece two summers ago, and hopefully will end up going to grad school for some type of ancient history tract. And though my friends, tease about the relevance of

Ancient Greek and Latin, it's something I really enjoy.

Have you done any other traveling for your studies?

I studied abroad last year in England, and it was one of the best experiences of my life — something I'd recommend to everyone here at William and Mary for sure. I interned at this amazing museum, and got to give tours through aisles of Egyptian mummies and Greek statues. I also rowed crew there, which involved waking up at dreadful hours of the morning (the W&M rowing team amazes me still) and also meeting the best, craziest British people ever. I studied Sanskrit and ancient history, and afterwards, backpacked Europe for two and a half months.

So tell me, what kind of books does an anthropologist like to read?

I read "Guns, Germs, and Steel" over break by Jared Diamond. It was good. But I'd really recommend reading "Watership Down" (it's about rabbits) and "Crime and Punishment." Those are my two all-time favorites.

How did you become interested in the anthropology club?

Wow, you're really grilling me here. I've worked in the anthropology department since freshman year. It's really become a second home to me. For instance, I was working there on Thursday, when President Nichol sent out his resignation e-mail. I immediately started crying, and was able to cry and talk about it with two wonderful professors — who at this point feel more like family — and they helped me through the morning. I really love and respect the entire department.

So anyway, I got involved in anthropology club because I'm a major and really find the subject fascinating. It's a fun club, really. We have culture nights where we get together with student groups like CSO and NASA and make ethnic dishes and invite a speaker who specializes in that culture or region to have dinner with us and then lecture. We've gone on digs, gone to pow-wows and invited lots of speakers to present. Yes, my friends incessantly tease me about it. Yes, I should consider getting new friends.

It seems like your friends can't embarrass you that easily. What does embarrass you?

You know, as of late I've woken up on Saturday mornings realizing that the night before was filled with embarrassing moments and awkward situations. But, I guess a more definitive story comes to mind from the very beginning of the semester. I had all four wisdom teeth out three days before returning to school. I'm pretty sure I have a big head to start with, but I was so swollen that it was ginormous. I mean, really, really big. Cheeks-swollen-below-my-chin big. Plus I couldn't talk well at all and couldn't eat anything that wasn't liquid, so I was pretty grumpy. Not the best way to start off your last semester.

What has been the most difficult thing you have had to deal with during your time at the College?

The past two days. Hearing about the BOV's decision, and President Nichol's fate. I love and respect him and all he stands for so much that it's just been really tough. I'm not even yet sure how to best articulate how upsetting this all is.



SPENCER ATKINSON — THE FLAT HAT

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Make every day Valentine's Day

Maya Horowitz

FLAT HAT SEX COLUMNIST

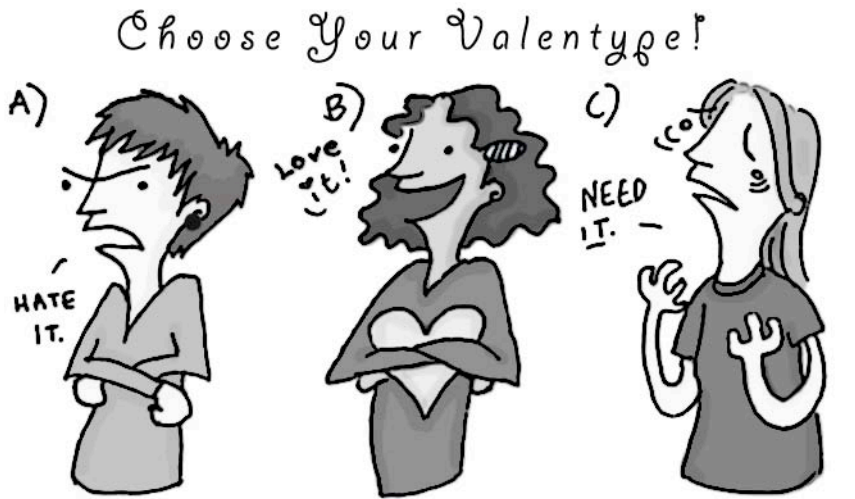


The Valentine's Day column. Man, that's a tall order for a new columnist. Emily Powell has decided to keep the rest of what's behind her closed doors out of the public eye, and here I am standing naked before the student body, ready to be judged on my sexpertise. While I doubt the thought of a new sex columnist really gets you hot and bothered, yesterday's heart-shaped holiday might. What is the significance of Valentine's Day anyway? It seems everyone has an opinion, but most points of view fall into a few categories.

First there are the non-conforming, dissident, anti-consumerists. They believe that Valentine's Day is nothing more than a corporate plot to motivate the hapless to spend money. There's probably some truth to this opinion since the U.S. Greeting Card Association (Seriously? They have an association?) estimates that approximately one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year worldwide.

Then there are the sex-crazed and the sex-deprived. To them, Valentine's Day is a chance to justify their carnal lust without feeling self-conscious about their obvious intentions. The 14th is like a get-out-of-jail-free pass to wear their horniness on their sleeve.

Next come those that would say that Valentine's Day is only for women. It's a chance for them to get all dressed up and hope someone will spend money on them. (For those of you who hold this opinion, I refer you to the newly created "Steak and Blowjob Day" on March 14.) But as with the dissident's outlook, this attitude carries some weight. It is estimated that women purchase 85 percent of all Valentine's



GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA WALCH

cards, which suggests that women do value the holiday more than men.

Of course there is the group that actually enjoys the holiday. These people love the togetherness, the heart-shaped everything and the chance to wear red clothing. Valentine's Day is something they look forward to. However, something tells me the population of this group is waning.

And finally, there are those who cringe at the thought of V-Day. It's a day for self-pity because they don't have someone to share it with. Maybe they'll curl up on the couch with some low-fat, low-carb, non-dairy, vitamin D-enhanced ice cream and watch "When Harry Met Sally."

No matter which category you fall into (or if you are none of the above), it's pretty incredible how many emotions this day can stir up. I mean, we are talking about a holiday whose name is derived from a group of Catholic martyrs whom we know little to nothing about. The day only came to be associated with love when Chaucer (he of "Canterbury Tales" fame) linked the two. There's nothing inherently lovely about the 14th day of the second month of each year. It seems a little silly or at least misguided to attach so much importance to it. Why worry about this day? Why do our feelings have to be tied up in it?

Can't we just enjoy the gratuitous amounts of candy and cross our fingers for a little something extra at the end of the night?

Of course not. As with most things hoisted upon us by American culture, it's hard to separate our identities from these practices. Even those who reject the holiday still define themselves by doing so.

I propose that we free ourselves from the pink, fuzzy handcuffs of Valentine's Day. If you want to partake in passionate lovemaking with your significant other or just sweaty, awkward sex with a stranger, don't wait until the 14th to do it. Get in touch with your sexual side without having to be prompted by the diamond industry. Dare yourself to buy flowers on another day of the year, send unexpected cards telling people that you love them and gorge yourself on chocolates and watch sappy movies on any day of the year.

The truth is, Valentine's Day only has the significance that we attach to it. The next time you pass the UC with its heart-festooned tables, ask yourself if there isn't a little bit of room for love every day of the year.

Maya Horowitz is the new sex columnist. She is a card-sending member of the U.S. Greeting Card Association.

Students act on love for Nichol

ACTIVISM from page 8

"I hope these recent events will bring renewed interest among all alumni in the affairs of the College," Reid said. "Now is not the time to become disengaged. Seniors should not be withdrawing their gifts, nor should alumni be saying they'll no longer donate to the College."

Albert echoed this sentiment by stressing that pulling support from the College, in every form, would only prove detrimental to the community and would also go against what Nichol would have wanted for the College.

While the outpouring of support — evident in the number of people

attending events, the emergence of various Facebook groups and events and blogs dedicated to discussing the issue — is an inspiration to people hoping for change, many on campus still question whether the student activism will really have an effect.

"It was the prerogative of the Board of Visitors to make the decision," Austin Raynor '11 said. "The board operates independently of students and is privy to more information and ultimately looks at what the College needs in the long run, not just at the moment. If the students had wanted to affect the decision, their energy would have been better used preventatively, rather than

just as a response."

Yet, whether it will entail great change or not, others at the College recognize the student activism as a signal to the outside world as to the true meaning of Tribe Pride and the close-knit community within, according to Johnson. She added that the movement during the last few days has been a positive way to catalyze change and get students' voices heard.

"Instead of lashing out or anything negative, we need to stay strong," Albert said. "We need to live up to what President Nichol said about making William and Mary the single most engaged university in the nation."

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HOROSCOPES

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



Sure, Gene Nichol may be able to fit 15 ill-informed conservative newspaper editors in his stomach, but at this point I think we'd all settle for just one.

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20



Say what you will about the steroid issue in baseball, but it's obvious that Roger Clemens was more uncomfortable in Congress today than a half-naked page.

Aries: March 21 - April 19



The race is on for the next recipient of The Flat Hat editor-in-chief crown, but let's face it: I'll drink you all under the table.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20



Speaking of races, is there anything more satisfying than watching the Hillary Clinton campaign disintegrate before our eyes? No, there isn't.

Gemini: May 21- June 21



Now that the BOV has eclipsed Parking Services as the number one group the student body wants to stone to death, expect an imminent identity crisis.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22



Yeah you're intelligent, and you're the vice president of a certain campus legislative body, but constantly quoting "Borat" hasn't been cool since 2006.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22



Whether you're saving orphans, ending world hunger or smoking excessive weed, chances are Max Fisher will find something wrong with it.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



You might still be recovering from a lonely and bitter Valentine's Day or realizing that your wallet is empty. Either way, no amount of sex is worth it.

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



If you're depressed about developments in the Nichol saga this week, look on the bright side: Those six alumni will finally shut the fuck up.

Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



You thought you'd never find it, but there is someone who is even more full of shit than Mitt Romney and Hillary Clinton: Congratulations, Michael Powell!

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



Become inspired this week, and start a movement. The BOV needs a new president with strong, Christian, pre-21st century ideals. Mike Huckabee anyone?

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



Look out tomorrow, a natural disaster and chaos may ensue. But on the bright side, who doesn't love Campus Golf?

— by Alexander Ely

REVIEWS

Johnson’s ‘Sleep Through the Static’ offers same sound

By CONOR MCKAY
Flat Hat Reviews Editor

Jack Johnson’s brand of simple, acoustic-laden campfire sing-alongs has changed little from that of his debut, 2001’s “Brushfire Fairytales.” From his proper albums, “On and On” and “In Between Dreams,” to his soundtracks for “Curious George” and the surf documentary “Thicker Than Water,” Johnson’s lazy, blues-inspired Hawaiian beach sound has rarely skipped a beat.

Johnson’s new album, “Sleep Through the Static,” offers much of the same — maybe a bit too much. While the album is pretty and comforting, it’s to find a reason to come back and listen again.

The album’s third track, “Hope,” is catchy and upbeat, but haven’t we heard this before? When Johnson sings “Your reflection is a blur / Out of focus, but in confusion / The frames are suddenly burnt / And in the end of a roll of illusion,” you can’t help but feel like you’re listening to “Flake” off of

‘Fairytales.’

The album’s title track boasts world-weary lyrics and smooth, jazzy guitars and pianos. Johnson coos, “Who needs please when we’ve got guns? / Who needs peace when we’ve gone above / But beyond where we should have gone? / We went beyond where we should have gone.” But who needs this song when we’ve got John Mayer’s “Waiting on the World to Change”?

Sadly for Johnson, his musical stagnancy has been his greatest weakness. His music is good, and every album he’s put out has been enjoyable. But frankly, he has yet to produce anything to outdo ‘Fairytales.’

Sure, there are some great tracks on “On and On” and “In Between Dreams” — “Taylor” is one of Johnson’s catchiest songs to date, and “Better Together” and “Do You Remember” are classic romantic diddies that prove irresistibly hummable. But what sets “Taylor” apart from “Bubble Toes”? What makes “Better Together” different from “Posters”? How is “Flake” any different from “Hope”?

Jack’s biggest problem lies in his inability to progress between individual albums and songs. Maybe it’s intrinsic in the lazy music genre, but there’s a problem when an artist’s albums are so bland and indistinguishable that there’s no reason for a listener to own more than one.

It’s great chill-out music, don’t get me wrong. My roommate has “In Between Dreams,” and he plays it at a reasonable, nap-inducing volume on lazy Sundays. I own “Brushfire Fairytales,” and I’ll play it while driving by myself on long hauls — but that’s about it. Lyrically, “Sleep Through the Static” seems to resent the idea of civic apathy, but when the message is presented in the form of lazy music that’s perfect for falling asleep to, it successfully undermines itself.

Johnson shares this problem with artists like Mayer and Coldplay — such are the highlights of the culture of inoffensive music. Mayer’s “Gravity” is pretty, straightforward, well performed and well produced, and its lyrics hold



COURTESY PHOTO — MODULARPEOPLE.COM
Hawaii native Jack Johnson released his fifth studio album, “Sleep Through the Static,” Feb. 5. Before entering the music business, Johnson was a professional surfer.

a good message. Coldplay’s “The Scientist” is ostensibly beautiful and romantic.

These guys are all in the business of being really nice guys who play really nice music that people of all ages can enjoy. They play the kind of music your parents feel young and hip listening to.

But it isn’t hip and it isn’t cool, and it certainly isn’t fresh or new in the slightest. The music doesn’t aspire to

See **JOHNSON** page 11

KIMBALL THEATRE

When the Movies Come to Town!

Friday, February 15

John Wayne in Williamsburg
2:30 p.m. — 3:00 p.m. Presentations on John Wayne’s film career, local popularity and visits to town.
3:00 p.m. “The Shootist” — 1976 (Paramount Pictures)

King Kong Takes Merchant’s Square!
5:00 p.m. — 6:30 p.m. Reception followed by welcoming remarks by Arthur Knight, director of film studies, College of William and Mary.
6:30 p.m. “King Kong” — 1933 (RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.)

Forget the Movie! Start the Show!
10:30 p.m. “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” — 1975 (20th Century Fox)

Saturday, February 16

Kids at the Movies and in the Movies
10:30 — 11:30 a.m. Short films from the Little Rascals, Looney Tunes, Three Stooges and excerpts from Shirley Temple, Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton films.
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Reflections on Shirley Temple and American Kids’ Culture by Professor John Kasson, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, author of “The Little Girl Who Fought the Great Depression.”

Race Relations in and at the Movies
2:30 — 3:30 p.m. Presentations on black movie-going in Williamsburg led by Professor Arthur Knight, College of William and Mary, author of “Disintegrating the Musical: Black Performance and American Musical Film.”
3:30 p.m. “In the Heat of the Night” — 1967 (MGM)

Sunday, February 17

Immigrants, Gangsters and Art Film
1:30 p.m. “Godfather” — 1972 (Paramount Pictures)
7:00 p.m. “Blowup” — 1966 (MGM) (On William and Mary campus)

— compiled by Conor McKay

Simple Plan missteps in move away from pop-punk

By DAN IRISH
The Flat Hat

Simple Plan’s new, self-titled album is a pastiche of every pop-rock cliché from recent years. The Canadian pop-rock band employs producers Dave Fortman (Evanescence) and Max Martin (Kelly Clarkson, Avril Lavigne) to make them sound like an amalgamation of every radio single currently in line for the next “Now That’s What I Call Music!” series.

For a band who poses for promo shots with lip rings, black T-shirts and angular haircuts, its decision to employ Nate “Danja” Hills — the producer of “Promiscuous” and “SexyBack” — equates to Carrie Underwood calling up Mastodon to produce her new Wal-Mart single.

The album’s first single, “When I’m Gone,” begins with synth tinkering and a hip-hop beat. Despite simplistic, staccato guitar playing and layered “Whoa-ohs,” lead singer Pierre Bouvier sings the smartest lyric of his career: “It’s like we’re goin’ through the motions / Of a scripted destiny.”

It is Bouvier’s scripted destiny, then, to Auto-Tune the crap out of his vocals — this transforms his already nasally whine into the voice of a Canadian robot that speaks only in profoundly inane couplets such as, “If these walls could talk / They would have so much to say” (“No Love”).

There are three slow ballads that showcase rhymes like “beating” and “bleeding” and “right” and “face” (which, of course, don’t even rhyme). On “Your Love Is a Lie,” the boy-band synthesizer hand-clap resurfaces

after years of hiding. Drummer Chuck Comeau includes some inexplicable double bass drum kicks before lead guitarist Jeff Stinco (his real name) cooks up a generic solo.

The verses are reminiscent of Oasis’s “Wonderwall,” but Bouvier tries to be edgier when he sings, “And do you think about me when he fucks you?” This line is great, especially since it was written 14 years ago by Alanis Morissette in “You Oughta Know.” The band even pays cute homage to U2 in “Holding On” with echoing guitars and Bono Lite vocals.

“Generation,” however, takes

See **PLAN** page 11

COURTESY PHOTO — ATLANTIC

ALEX HAGLUND — THE FLAT HAT
Students stand outside College President Gene Nichol’s house to sing the Alma Mater. Students held candles to show their support after Nichol’s resignation earlier in the day.

CRITICAL CONDITION

Alma Mater’s meaning feels lost amid Nichol controversy

Genice Phillips
FLAT HAT COLUMNIST



Tuesday night, in front of the president’s house, I watched my fellow students and the numerous faculty lift their candles to honor our president, Gene Nichol. They responded to the heartwarming speeches made by two students, one staff member and the president himself with shouts and thunderous claps of praise.

But above all, they honored Nichol with song.

The alma mater is something that I

never thought twice about singing; it was sung without thought, but with meaning. I have sung it numerous times on this campus — at opening Convocation freshman year when I was first welcomed on this campus, for women’s chorus, the Yule log ceremony and at many other campus events.

Most people sing the alma mater so they can shout in staccato “William and Mary” with Tribe pride. Some sing four octaves higher, knowing they’re reaching Mariah Carey status with dangerously high pitches.

But on that Tuesday night, when I, along with countless others, found myself filled with rage, discontent and disbelief, I questioned what I was truly doing. What was I really singing? What is the

history and meaning behind my alma mater and how am I connected to it, to sing it as my own?

The name “alma mater” comes from a Latin term meaning “nourishing mother.” It is referred to and often used as a school’s anthem. The lyrics to the College’s alma mater were written by alumnus James Southall Wilson, who graduated in 1904. The tune is a common song used by other universities, beginning with Cornell University. The College borrows the tune, but our alma mater’s lyrics are our own, made for this community.

Regardless of duplication or memorization — let’s be honest, not

See **ALMA MATER** page 11

SPORTS IN BRIEF

MEN'S TENNIS

Tribe jumps to no. 43 in rankings after three wins

After a weekend in which it defeated Norfolk State, George Mason and no. 65 Northwestern, the Tribe rose two spots to no. 43 in the latest ITA rankings. The win streak improved the squad's record to 9-3 on the season heading into a stretch that includes two ranked foes in the next three matches. Friday, the College will host no. 72 Georgia State at 5 p.m., before no. 24 Rice and James Madison come to town for a Sunday doubleheader.

WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

Long named ECAC Co-Gymnast of Week

Senior Tricia Long garnered ECAC Co-Gymnast of the Week accolades after an impressive performance this past weekend at New Hampshire. Long turned in a fourth-place performance in the all-around, scoring just shy of her career high while leading the Tribe on the floor exercise. The senior also posted season-high totals on the beam and the bars. After a fourth-place finish in New Hampshire, the College will return to play Saturday when they travel to Raleigh for the Sweet-heart Invitational.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

College falls to JMU, drops below .500 in conference

Junior guard Dani Kell scored a season-high 19 points, but it was not enough to propel the Tribe past James Madison University as the Dukes beat the College 77-60 Thursday night. Senior Kyra Kaylor set the Tribe's all-time record for games played in the loss, suiting up for her 107th game for the College. The Tribe returns to action Sunday when it hosts Northeastern University at Kaplan arena. Tipoff is set for 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

College drops three spots in rankings to no. 16

The College fell three spots to no. 16 in the latest ITA Poll after dropping a pair of matches at the ITA National Indoor Team Championship this past weekend. The squad fell to no. 7 University of Miami and no. 14 University of Notre Dame before defeating host University of Wisconsin to salvage a 1-2 record on the trip and fall to 5-3 on the season. The Tribe will look to bounce back when they host no. 24 University of Arkansas Friday, before facing no. 64 Colorado University a day later. The Harvard University Crimson will then be in town for a Monday match.

—By Matt Poms and Miles Hilder.

SCHEDULE

Fri., Feb. 15

WOMEN'S TENNIS

ARKANSAS — 12 p.m.

MEN'S TENNIS

GEORGIA STATE — 5 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 16

TRACK AND FIELD

@ Carolina Chick-Fil-A Invitational — Chapel Hill, N.C.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

COLORADO — 12 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

@ Towson — 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

@ Sweetheart Invitational — Raleigh, N.C. — 7 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 17

MEN'S TENNIS

RICE — 10 a.m.

JAMES MADISON — 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

BINGHAMTON — 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NORTHEASTERN — 3 p.m.

Mon., Feb. 18

MEN'S GOLF

@ Rice Intercollegiate

WOMEN'S TENNIS

HARVARD — 1 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: TRIBE 64, UNCW 77

Homesick Tribe



COURTESY PHOTO — UNCW SPORTS INFORMATION

Senior guard Nathan Mann defends UNCW guard Daniel Fountain during Wednesday night's 77-64 road loss.

College slips to third in CAA after second-straight road loss

By ANDREW PIKE

Flat Hat Assoc. Sports Editor

In the midst of a three-game road trip, the Tribe (13-11, 9-5 CAA) dropped its second-straight game, falling 77-64 to the University of North Carolina—Wilmington (16-10, 9-5) Seahawks Wednesday night. The loss drops the College into a tie with UNCW for third in the CAA.

While the Seahawks caught fire both inside and outside the arc, the College failed to ignite from three-point range, finishing 8-31 from long-distance. Two members of UNCW's backcourt — Daniel Fountain and Chad Tomko — combined for eight three-pointers on just 14 attempts.

"They really can score the basketball," Head Coach Tony Shaver said in a postgame interview on the Tribe radio network. "I thought at our place we did a great job defending them. Tonight it was a combination of them shooting the ball very well, and we weren't great defensively."

The first half saw back-and-forth action as each team tried to take

control of the game. The College grabbed the game's first lead on junior forward Peter Stein's lay-up, but by the time the first media timeout arrived at the 15:41 mark, the Seahawks had taken the lead for good. And after the game's fifth and final tie at 23-23 with 6:05 left in the first half, the Seahawks reeled off five straight points to launch a 14-5 run that left the Tribe trailing 37-28 at the break.

Sophomore forward Danny Sumner's dunk with 16:40 remaining trimmed the College's deficit to eight at 45-37, but UNCW answered with another strong spurt, outscoring the Tribe 13-3 over the next 4:30 minutes to take its largest lead of the game at 58-40.

The College then went on a 6-0 run, but for the next three minutes and 21 seconds neither team scored a point, as the Tribe failed to capitalize on any of UNCW's empty possessions. Sumner converted a three-point play that capped a 9-0 Tribe run, bringing the College to within nine with 7:15 remaining. The Seahawks then took control, however, as the Tribe finished

5 of 14 from the field down the stretch. UNCW went on to record its seventh victory in its last nine contests.

With Fountain and Tomko drilling three-pointers on the perimeter, center Vladimir Kuljanin dominated the paint, finishing with 10 points, 19 rebounds and two blocks.

For the College, Sumner led the way, finishing with 14 points, while Stein and senior guard Nathan Mann contributed 12 and 11 points, respectively. Mann, sophomore guard David Schneider and senior forward Laimis Kisielius combined to shoot 4 of 27 from the field, as the Tribe finished the game shooting 38.7 percent.

Kisielius started and played 29 minutes despite a nagging turf toe injury that has Shaver considering shelving the senior co-captain for a week to get healthy again. Sophomore forward Steven Hess did not make the trip to Wilmington due to a sprained ankle.

The Tribe will finish its road trip with a 4 p.m. contest Saturday at Towson University.

Home sweet home

After posting impressive home wins against Northeastern and UNCW earlier this season, the Tribe has struggled in its two recent road losses to the Huskies and Seahawks.

	Home	Away
Total FG percentage	40.2 percent	35.2 percent
3-pt FG percentage	32.8 percent	25.5 percent
Scoring by Kisielius, Mann and Schneider	60 points	41 points
Turnover margin	+18	+2

Left: Senior forward Laimis Kisielius. Right: Sophomore guard David Schneider. Photos by Alex Haglund, The Flat Hat.

FROM THE SIDELINES

NCAA tourney's bogus bubble system in need of reforms

Carl Siegmund

FLAT HAT ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR



I've spent years ridiculing ESPN college basketball commentator Dick Vitale. His analysis of a game rarely develops beyond "That's awesome, baby!" For some, his shrill shtick is reason to hit the mute button. But in the wake of his two-month absence from the broadcasting booth, I discovered that college basketball coverage is pretty monotonous without Vitale's trademark calls, catchphrases and cheerleading.

What's refreshing about Dickie V is that he doesn't pollute the airwaves with the same subject his colleagues debate nightly. Is your favorite team "on the bubble," hoping for a bid into the NCAA tournament? If so, chances are high that they're being scrutinized by bracketologists. And the odds are greater that if you're a fan of a mid-major program, the same analysts are overlooking your team's achievements. It's more than frustrating to watch.

But for Vitale, scrutiny is not his mantra. What his broadcasts lack in substance, they make up for in passion and energy. While he cheers on the sidelines,

others communicate in bubble speak.

The March Madness bubble watch unofficially kicks off in early January when conference play commences. The whole ordeal is then dragged out for two and half months before the tournament's field of 65 teams is revealed on "Selection Sunday."

What's ridiculous about the bubble watch is not simply its extended duration, but also its ability to sustain the tournament hopes of average teams in major conferences. According to ESPN's weekly bubble watch, there are currently ten teams in the mix for an at-large tournament berth from the Big East. On paper, the schools look formidable, as each maintains an RPI rating in the top 65. But on paper, every team from a major conference is above average, including those under .500. With 31 conferences in Division I and only 34 at-large bids being awarded by the selection committee, including more than five teams from a major conference on any given bubble is a snub for successful mid-major basketball programs.

More at-large bids should be given to schools from mid-major conferences. The NCAA thinks otherwise. Last year, the selection committee relegated a 22-7 Appalachian State team to the NIT even though they won 12 of their final 14 games and beat U.Va., Vanderbilt and VCU in their non-conference schedule. Their only sin was being a member of the

COMMENTARY

Tribe barely hanging on to first-round bye

Andrew Pike

FLAT HAT ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR



With four games remaining on the Tribe's CAA schedule, it's time to take a look down the road and map out where the College could land in the seeding of the conference tournament. After its second-straight road loss, the College enters the regular season's home-stretch with two road games and two home games remaining.

Sitting in a tie for third with UNCW in the standings behind VCU and Mason, the Tribe needs at least two wins for a shot at a top-four seed and a first-round bye in the CAA tournament. And with Northeastern and Delaware just one game back in fifth, the College has hungry teams in its rear-view mirror, waiting for the Tribe or Seahawks to stumble so that they can steal their spot.

THE ROAD GAMES REMAINING

Towson — Saturday's contest at Towson will be no easy task for the Tribe, as the Tigers gave Mason a scare Wednesday night, trimming a 20-point deficit to six before fading late.

Mason — The game at Mason provides a tough test for the College. In the team's lone matchup of the season, the Tribe will seek its second-straight win at the Patriot Center Feb. 27. Mason has not dropped a home conference game this season.

THE HOME GAMES REMAINING

Drexel — Playing Bruiser Flint's Dragons has never been considered a gimme win for the Tribe. This matchup is no different in that sense, but it is a must-win for the College, considering Drexel will enter the game with one of the CAA's worst records.

VCU — Conference leader and likely conference tournament no. 1 seed VCU travels to Kaplan Arena Mar. 1 for Senior Day. The teams met in December when VCU was 4-3 and the Tribe 1-4, but since then each team has upped its level of play. Eric Maynor and Jamal Shuler have the ability to give the College's backcourt all it can handle and more.

WAYS TO CLINCH A TOP-FOUR SEED

Sure-fire way — Win out. It's an unlikely scenario given Laimis Kisielius's toe injury (which could potentially keep him out a week), a road game at Mason and a date with VCU, but not impossible. Obviously Saturday's game at Towson becomes a must-win in this scenario.

Next-best — Take three out of four. Beat Towson and Drexel and steal a game from Mason or VCU. Tribe has a better chance of beating just one, but the odds are still not in their favor.

Get lucky — Split the last four games, beating Towson and Drexel, and hope the teams behind the Tribe falter.

MOST LIKELY SCENARIO

The Tribe takes two of its last four and finishes at 11-7 in the conference. Given the difficult finishing stretch of UNCW and the relatively easy path for Delaware, the College could find itself in a three-way tie for third place and possibly find itself on the outside looking in at a top-four seed.

Pike's Projected Final CAA Standings*

1. Virginia Commonwealth	16-2
2. George Mason	13-5
3. Delaware	11-7
4. UNC Wilmington	11-7
5. Tribe	11-7
6. Northeastern	10-8
7. Old Dominion	10-8

*Based on tiebreak rules in CAA Media Guide

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